

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
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THE GUARDIAN

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Dunlop battle ends in victory for BTR

By James Eirichman

Dunlop and the industrial combine BTR agreed last night to form a commercial marriage after their bitter takeover battle. The hasty alliance, in which Dunlop's Sir Michael Edwards accepted a £101 million bid from BTR for his rubber and tyre group, took the stock market by surprise.

A daily battle between the two companies had apparently been at each other's throats with accusations of commercial foul play from both sides.

BTR, formerly known as the Birmingham Tyre and Rubber Company, has effectively trebled the value of its offer to win Dunlop without further hostilities. It is now offering 20p a share instead of 21p when it began the takeover battle a month ago. Alternatively, Dunlop shareholders can take shares in BTR instead of cash.

Sir Michael, the former BL chairman, who swept into power at Dunlop with his lieutenant only last October, said: "We are very disappointed we



Sir Michael Edwards - future uncertain

can't be seeing things through." The merger would create a powerful industrial group with sales approaching £4 billion a year.

Asked if he would resign, Sir Michael said the matter had not been discussed because he was too busy thinking about shareholders' interests.

However, he said: "If you are chairman of a public company and it gets taken over, there is a point of view that this is constructive dismissal."

Sir Michael is believed to have parked up around £100,000 compensation from his last short stint as chairman of ICL, the computer group, before it was taken over by the offer after considerable controversy.

Yesterday's agreement was initiated by BTR's chairman, Sir Owen Green, who asked to meet Sir Michael. They met at an undisclosed neutral location in London and thrashed out the deal in 14 hours after Dunlop officials handed over the financial information which BTR had been demanding.

Sir Owen said he had learned enough about Dunlop's debts and prospects to make the offer.

Dunlop was heading for a financial collapse only months ago. It had sold its European tyre business to the Japanese but its remaining products from rubber, engineering, consumer and sports goods could not make enough profit to pay off £300 million debts.

It was rescued after intervention from the Bank of England and all commercial banks agreed to set up a rescue plan until reconstruction of the company could be arranged.

Kinnock supports struggle to save 'victims' strikers

Miners try to heal rift with Labour

By Jean Stead
Scottish Correspondent

Mr Mick McGahey, the National Union of Mineworkers' vice-president, took the first step towards healing divisions between the NUM and the Labour leadership yesterday when he said he had no dispute with Mr Neil Kinnock.

The determination to put the strains of the 12-month pit strike behind them was demonstrated during Mr Kinnock's visit to the Labour Party's Scottish conference in Perth. It was clear that the NUM feels that it needs the Labour

from the tense days of the strike when the NUM made little secret of its feeling that the Labour leadership and the TUC were giving inadequate support. The nadir of the relationship was reached when a motion was suspended above Mr Willie's head when he was addressing a miners' rally.

NUM criticism of Mr Kinnock was open when he refused to address the union's rallies and when he spoke out against picket violence. Last autumn, at both the TUC and Labour conferences, the distance between the ruling triumvirate of the NUM, particularly Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, and the Labour and TUC leaders, was clear.

Mr Kinnock said after meeting Mr McGahey yesterday that there should be a public inquiry into the management of the Scottish coalfield and the sacking of 150 miners who had been convicted "many of them for being in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Some of them had gone with NUM safety teams to help to

leader's help in securing amenities for members sacked during the strike.

Mr McGahey said: "I have no dispute with the leader of the Labour Party and we will continue to work together." Mr Kinnock and Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, were both present at the meeting.

The conference was held at the Perth City Hall. It was the first time since the strike that the NUM and the Labour Party had met in such a formal setting.

The conference was attended by 1,200 delegates. It was a significant step towards healing the rift between the NUM and the Labour Party.

Mr Kinnock's last major speech here, the speed of industrial closures and the

US Geneva team gets final orders

From Alex Brummer
in Washington

President Reagan yesterday gave final instructions to his Geneva team calling for deep reductions in offensive systems, with a rhetorical flourish emphasising his long-term objective of eliminating nuclear weapons.

We seek an agreement as soon as possible on real and verifiable reductions in American and Soviet offensive nuclear arms, Mr Reagan said after meeting his Geneva negotiating team, which will be led by his ambassador, Mr William Clark.

Mr Reagan conspicuously eschewed any mention of limiting the role of defensive systems, such as Star Wars, simply noting that the match between technology provides greater safety rather than greater fear.

The American negotiating team will be accompanied to Geneva by large delegations of congressional observers from both Houses of Congress and both major parties. The White House objective is to emphasise the US position that, despite disagreements over the size of the defence budget and the MX intercontinental mis-

Injured Antarctic explorer airlifted to safety

By Geoff Andrews

Lt. Commander Clive Waghorn, the injured Navy explorer trapped for nearly a week near the wind-swept peak of an Antarctic island, was rescued last night.

After days of snow, 60 mph gales and dense low cloud which blotted out any chance of an airborne rescue, a sudden break in cloud cover on the 3,800ft Cushing Peak in the centre of Brabant Island allowed HMS Endeavour's light helicopter to make a dash to the spot, four miles inland, where the explorers' bright orange tent was spotted on Wednesday.

Lt. Comd Waghorn, aged 36, broke his leg when he fell into a crevasse on Monday.

The Wasp's pilot, Commander John White, located the tent within 10 minutes and dropped smoke flares to guide in two Sea King rescue helicopters from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel HMS Otis.

Three Royal Marines from Endeavour and a doctor were dropped at the site and reported that Lieutenant Commander Waghorn was "alive, as well as could be expected, and alert" and that his condition was "good" and "stable".

Commander White said, who volunteered to stay behind and help to get the injured explorer to safety.

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Yesterday that without a degree of luck the chance of rescuing Lieutenant Commander Waghorn was getting slimmer by the day.

From first reports that the explorer was on the island, the helicopter yesterday morning had an extremely serious climb ahead of them in appalling conditions with strong snow, whipped by winds of up to 60 mph, blotting out the crevasses that were the original cause of the accident.

Getting a seriously injured casualty down such a perilous mountain would have been extremely risky.

Two members of the marine team were originally in the joint services expedition group that Lieutenant Commander Waghorn had been leading. They had hurried back to the expedition base camp at Mennichoff Point, about 10 miles to the north, to raise the alarm.

It would not be known on Wednesday that the explorer had been rescued. An anonymous source said that he was concerned about those people being left behind in the Antarctic.

As the Scottish expedition drove back to work after a week marked by squabbles with management and returning miners saying they are being humiliated, yesterday's conference displayed an ability to fall into line behind the leaders when the going gets tough. It has rarely been tougher in Scotland.

Since Mr Kinnock's last major speech here, the speed of industrial closures and the



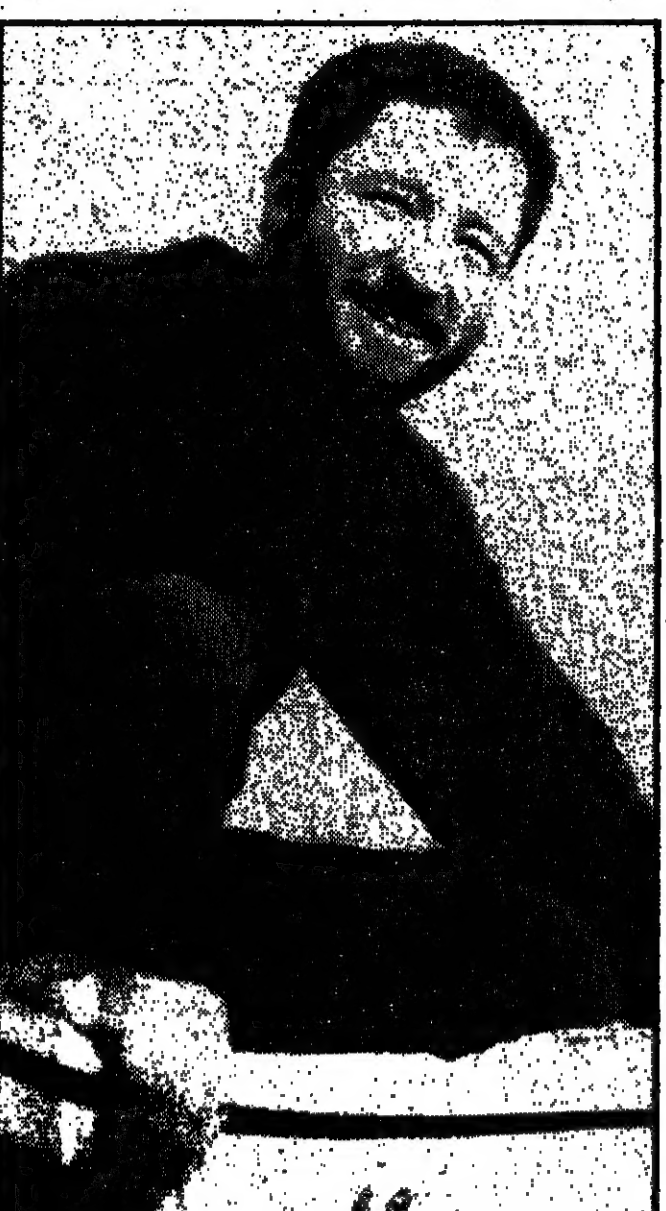
Peter Hogg (above), the former airline pilot who strangled his wife and dumped her body in England's deepest lake, was jailed for four years after being found guilty of her manslaughter yesterday.

The Old Bailey jury found him not guilty of murdering his wife Margaret.

The Common Sergeant of London, Judge Thomas Piggot, said he was passing the most lenient sentence possible.

Later, Terry MP Mr Peter Brundage, chairman of the newly-formed Law and Order Society, said: "It is outrageous that a cunning wife-killer can be let off with this derisory sentence."

Report, page 3.



Lt. Commander Clive Waghorn, the explorer who was rescued yesterday by a helicopter after breaking a leg while on a four-man expedition on Brabant Island.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Car bomb kills 60
ABOUT 60 people were killed and another 200 injured by a car bomb near the Beirut home of a prominent Shiite Muslim cleric yesterday. Earlier report, page 5.

Arts warning
ARTS organisations cannot rely on increasing public subsidies, according to Sir William Rees-Mogg, the Arts Council chairman, Page 3.

Freeson bows out
MR REG Freeson the Labour MP for Brent East, pulled out of the constituency reselection process yesterday, bowing to the inevitable choice of the GLC leader, Mr Ken Livingstone, as his successor. Back page.

Profits bank
LLOYDS BANK yesterday showed a £50 million rise in pre-tax profits to £485 million, making the "big four" banks' total £1.9 billion after allowing £1.76 billion for bad debts. Page 12.

Scottish aid lost
SCOTLAND has been prevented from taking up to £1.2 million EEC poverty aid because "the money does not justify the effort" Page 3.

Smoke signal
A PRIVATE bill to ban tobacco advertising and sports sponsorship is being introduced in the Lords. Page 4.

Cruise land ban
THE sale of 1.6 acres of church land for use at the Molesworth cruise missile base was halted by the High Court yesterday. Page 2.

Market moves
POUND up .0048 to \$1.0683; FT index up 0.5 to 983.1; Dow Jones up 1.87 to 1,269.66. Markets, page 19.

The weather
MILD with some sun. Details, back page.

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE

	25p	30p	35p	40p	45p	50p	55p	60p	65p	70p	75p	80p	85p	90p	95p	100p
Austria	25p	30p	35p	40p	45p	50p	55p	60p	65p	70p	75p	80p	85p	90p	95p	100p
Belgium	25p	30p	35p	40p	45p	50p	55p	60p	65p	70p	75p	80p	85p	90p	95p	100p
Denmark	25p	30p	35p	40p	45p	50p	55p	60p	65p	70p	75p	80p	85p	90p	95p	100p
France	25p	30p	35p	40p	45p	50p	55p	60p	65p	70p	75p	80p	85p	90p	95p	100p
Germany	25p	30p	35p	40p	45p	50p	55p	60p	65p	70p	75p	80p	85p	90p	95p	100p
Greece	25p	30p	35p	40p	45p	50p	55p	60p	65p	70p	75p	80p	85p	90p	95p	100p
Ireland	25p	30p	35p	40p	45p	50p	55p	60p	65p	70p	75p	80p	85p	90p	95p	100p
Italy	25p	30p	35p	40p	45p	50p	55p	60p	65p	70p	75p	80p	85p	90p	95p	100p
Japan	25p	30p	35p	40p	45p	50p	55p	60p	65p	70p	75p	80p	85p	90p	95p	100p
Netherlands	25p	30p	35p	40p	45p	50p	55p	60p	65p	70p	75p	80p	85p	90p	95p	100p
Portugal	25p	30p	35p	40p	45p	50p	55p	60p	65p	70p	75p	80p	85p	90p	95p	100p
Spain	25p	30p	35p	40p	45p	50p	55p	60p	65p	70p	75p	80p	85p	90p	95p	100p
Sweden	25p	30p	35p	40p	45p	50p	55p	60p	65p	70p	75p	80p	85p	90p	95p	100p
Switzerland	25p	30p	35p	40p	45p	50p	55p	60p	65p	70p	75p	80p	85p	90p	95p	100p
USA	25p	30p	35p	40p	45p	50p	55p	60p	65p	70p	75p	80p	85p	90p	95p	100p

Tate goes north to draw Mersey tourists

By Sarah Bewley and Alan Dugan

Liverpool's Garden Festival success is to be followed by a "Tate in the north" project to further attract the spending power of tourists.

A £3.5 million gallery is to be built on the waterfront in the dock village, a stylishly renovated complex of grade one listed dock buildings near the Pier Head.

It will house part of the Tate's collection, modern art and state exhibitions of major international importance, the Tate's trustees said yesterday.

The Environment Secretary, Mr Patrick Jenkin, announced the project in Liverpool yesterday. "Tate in the north" will give a great boost to tourism in Liverpool. It is open to the public by the sea to attract thousands of visitors to Merseyside and so support the local economy.

Mr Jenkin added, had been to offer the city, whose plight was highlighted by the Toxteth riots. "This is part of the way of rebuilding the economy of this part of the world," he said.

The Merseyside Development Corporation is contributing £4.5 million towards the first phase of the 1,700 square metre gallery, scheduled to open to the public by the spring of 1988. The Office of Arts and Libraries will give £1.5 million towards the gallery in Albert Dock Village. Shops and bars where the tourists can unload some of their spending money, as well as flats and offices, are being built into the complex.

Liverpool's council leaders, who are threatening to defy the Government over setting a rate and a budget and who were only lukewarm to the Garden Festival, are not over-enthusiastic about this way of promoting the city's economy.

The deputy leader, Mr Derek Hatton, said: "It's a pity Mr Jenkin didn't show the same interest in the thousands of Tate and Lyle workers who lost their jobs there last year as he is showing in the Tate art gallery."

50 Zapu leaders vanish in night raids

From Andrew Meldrum
in Bulawayo

More than 50 key members of Zimbabwe's opposition Zanu party have disappeared in a series of sinister night abductions which the party claims is part of a campaign by the ruling Zanu party to suppress political opposition.

Church and international aid groups with activities in the Matabeleland provinces confirm that scores, some say hundreds, of community leaders with links to Zanu have been abducted in the past two months.

The growing number of accounts of such shadowy abductions by men working from a "hit list" of names of Matabeleland residents comes after the recent curfew of Bulawayo's township areas last weekend and the announcement that the bodies of the six foreign tourists have been found renewed attention on the area.

Matabeleland residents say they hope that reports of the abductions will force the authority carrying them out to stop.

Local Zanu officials, schoolmasters, and health workers have all been taken from rural villages by men driving unmarked Land Rovers, equipped with no licence plates, according to sources.

The abducted people have not been heard from since, and police and army officials say they have no knowledge of them. Most families presume their relatives taken away have been killed.

The opposition Zanu Party has assembled a list of more than 50 people who have disappeared, and say that the list is incomplete and still growing. The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace has also documented some of the abductions and is presenting its evidence to the Prime Minister, Mr Mugabe, in the hope that he will halt the abductions.

In addition to the abductions, Matabeleland peasants complain of harassment and beating from busloads of the Youth Brigade of Mr Mugabe's ruling Zanu Party.

Zanu youths are brought

Next week

Monday

DEATH-WATCH
Sudan is preparing for an invasion of refugees and journalists. The Media Page investigates the tensions.

THE CHANGING IMAGE
It wasn't Margaret Thatcher who brought lightning to York Minister. Guardian Women seeks images for the times.

A BRIDGE TOO FAR
The Bridge Report will bring joy to Government. It does less for the judiciary. Out of Court

GLITZ
He's been writing novels for 30 years. But suddenly the Dickens from Detroit is a millionaire. Arts Guardian

Tuesday

SKILLS FOR LIVING
Being male doesn't mean being macho. Guardian Women report on how boys are learning to live in a non-sexist world.

LEARNING TOGETHER
Education Guardian investigates the spread of Jewish-Arab understanding through Israeli schools.

Wednesday

GHOSTS IN THE MACHINE
Physicists and psychoanalysis are getting closer. Or are they? Body and Soul examines the evidence.

DEFENCE TACTICS
Helena Kennedy, the lawyer who takes on the cases her colleagues try to avoid, talks to Guardian Women.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Nuclear job move attacked

SENIOR civil servants are fighting to prevent the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate being transferred from London to Seattle in Lancashire, claiming that nuclear safety is threatened, writes Paul Brown.

The Institution of Professional Civil Servants says that the nuclear industry, the Confederation of British Industry, TUC, and the Advisory Committee on Safety of Nuclear Installations, all oppose the dispersal.

The union claimed that many inspectors would resign rather than go to Boodle thus making the already short staffed NII unable to cope with its commitments. The number of visits to sites were already dropping because of an increasing workload.

Routine tasks were left undone, and there was less flexibility to cope with unexpected developments.

Fear that Britain's new nuclear power stations will be delayed because there are no inspectors to check for safety, have been voiced by the union. It says that each day's delay costs £180,000.

The dispersal decision is fundamentally wrong. It has been made for political rather than nuclear safety reasons.

To disperse the NII is inconsistent with the government's avowed policy of maintaining a strong and effective inspectorate. If it goes ahead, the results will be damaging to morale, damaging to efficiency, damaging to safety standards, and damaging to the public acceptability of nuclear power, according to the union's booklet, The Shadow Over Nuclear.

Four killed in caravan fire

THREE children and their father were killed yesterday in a caravan fire.

Lorraine Williamson, aged 24, escaped unhurt but her husband Daniel, 23, and children Christopher, Charles and Jean, aged four, two and eight months died in the blaze at Guyhirn, Cambridgeshire.

Lassa victim's rescue starts

AN RAF VC10 aircraft which will fly Jill Sanderson, a 35-year-old nurse in Sierra Leone, back to Britain for treatment for Lassa fever, took off from Accra airport yesterday.

Miss Sanderson, aged 37, from Harrogate, will be flown to Bristol and transferred to Main Green Hospital.

Spain wants dead man's fingerprints

POLICE in Spain want fingerprints of a British man, Mr. Bill Russell, sent to them before releasing his body.

Mr. Russell, aged 44, from Hingham, Cornwall, who had recently insured his life for more than £1 million, fell to his death from a hotel in Murcia three weeks ago.

Anthrax fear at cattle farm

AN OUTBREAK of anthrax is suspected at a farm on the Isle of Wight.

Officials from the Agriculture Ministry yesterday declared the carcass of a heifer which had died, and were monitoring the other 250 cows at Dukinfield Farm, near Cowes.

Salesman charged with murder

A travelling salesman was yesterday committed for trial at Reading Crown court accused of the murder of a 23-year-old woman.

Deirdre Sainsbury, 23, whose body was found in a golf course at Denham, Buckinghamshire last December 23.

Colin Frederick Campbell, 31, of Hanwell, West London, was remanded in custody when he appeared at Reading magistrates court.

Judge sheds light on a cottage phenomena

A couple who claimed they felt their cottage in error because of strange happenings after a power supply cable was attached to their home lost their High Court damages claim against the South-East Electricity Board yesterday.

During a 12-day hearing in London, Mr. Joseph Orchard and his wife June, of New Cottages, Street, Adisham, Canterbury, Kent, claimed that the water damage to the cottage was caused by a crack in the structure of the cottage. None was found. And water could not have come through the ceiling unless poured from above.

The judge said: "It is no job of mine to determine the cause of their extraordinary behaviour, but the Orchard have been untruthful."

Husband 'totally lost control', then carefully covered up killing to protect sons

Four years for 'lady in lake' manslaughter

Peter Hogg was yesterday jailed for four years after being found guilty of the manslaughter of his wife Margaret. The Old Bailey jury found Hogg, aged 56, an airline pilot of Cranleigh, Surrey, not guilty of murder at the end of the "lady in the lake" trial.

Hogg admitted killing his wife but denied murder. He strangled his wife — then aged 37 — during a row over her three-year affair with Graham Ryan, a banker.

He strangled her in a plastic sheet and dumped it in Westwater in Cumbria, which is England's deepest lake.

Seven years later divers searching for a missing French student discovered Mrs Hogg's body.

The court was told that two mistakes helped trap him. The plastic sheeting had the name Guildford printed on it, directing police attention to the South-east, and he left his wife's wedding ring on her finger.

Inside the band was the inscription "Margaret 15-11-63 Peter" — their names and wedding date — which finally clinched identification.

Hogg said he never intended to kill his wife but she had come at him "like a tiger" during the argument in October 1978, and he lost control.

He admitted obstructing the Surrey coroner and committing perjury in later divorce proceedings when he swore he had no idea of his wife's whereabouts.

Hogg was jailed for three years for manslaughter and 12 months consecutively for the other two offences.

The Common Sergeant of London, Judge Thomas Pigot, said he was satisfied the killing was not "premeditated, brutal or savage."

He said that when Hogg had told his wife her car would have to be sold, she realised this would "greatly hamper her continuing adulterous association which had been flaunted by her for over three years to friends and acquaintances."

Some had given evidence about her selfish character — describing her as a spoilt child and testifying to Hogg's tolerance and forbearance.

The judge told Hogg: "You managed to control yourself until October 1978. When she was not going to have any car and the chances of seeing her paramour were very limited, she flew into a fury, she came at you like a tiger. I am satisfied you totally lost control."

The judge added he thought the most likely cause of Mrs Hogg's death was vaginal infection causing heart failure, as there was no sign of great pressure had been exerted on her neck.

"But you did something inherently dangerous and you must have known it at the time," the judge said he accepted that what Hogg did was entirely out of character, but he was unable to avoid passing a prison sentence, although it was "in the lowest type bracket."

Turning to the offences of perjury and impeding the coroner, the judge said he accepted Hogg covered up the death so he could look after his two sons.

Earlier, Mr. Patrick Back QC, Hogg's counsel, said the decision to dispose of the body was based on his love for his two sons, who were his life.

Hogg, "an extremely able pilot," had lost his job and "£200,000, his salary over the last three years of his service."

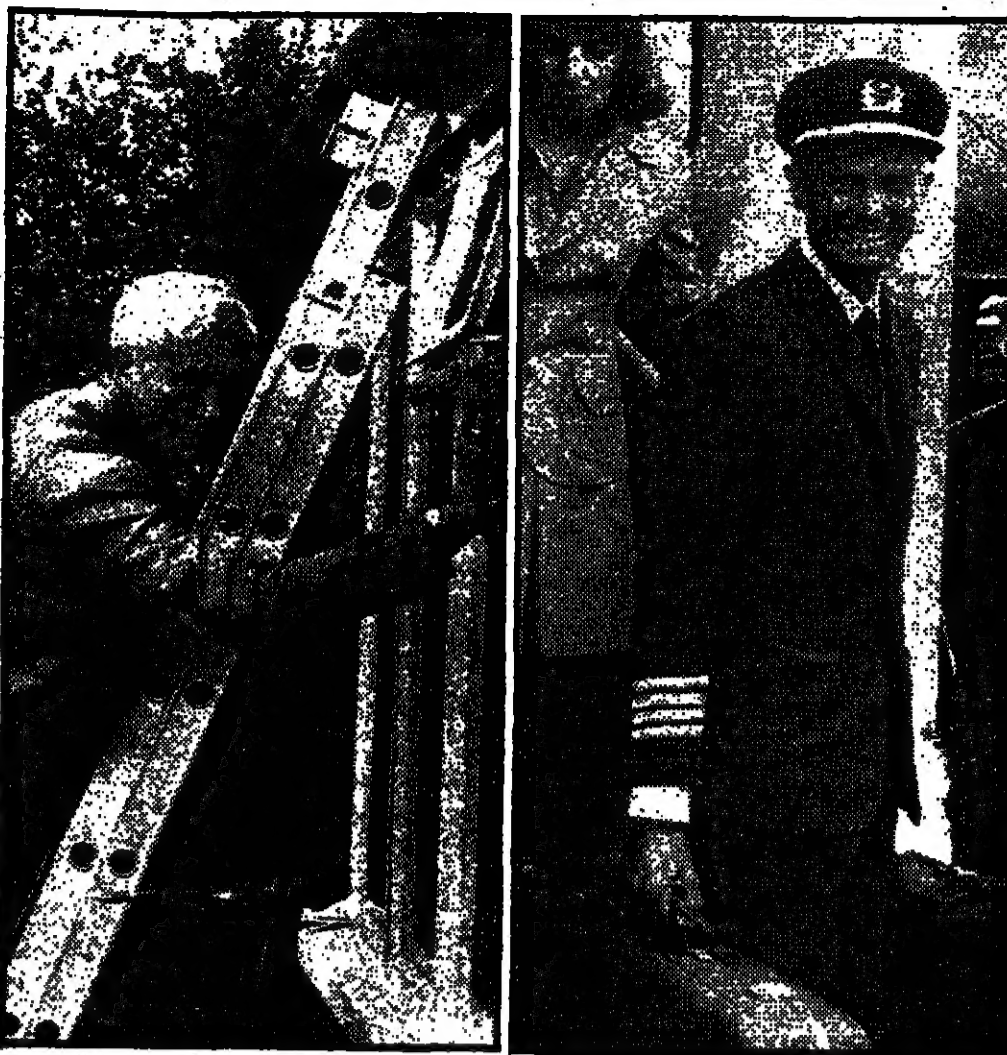
There was only one chance ahead of him, with very little chance of earning more money, said Mr. Back.

Hogg's solicitor, Mr. Michael Bellis, said later that an appeal against sentence was being considered.

Hogg was in the news 11 years ago when he was a pilot for Court Line, the holiday firm, and made a "moonlight flit" from Canada with 400 passengers and crew after the airline went bust.

When he heard of the failure, he decided that, as the Canadian authorities might try to impound the aircraft, he should get out quickly.

He summoned his crew, told them of the crash and, leaving hotel bills and landing fees unpaid, flew the passengers out.



Peter Hogg as a Court Line pilot in 1974, right, and at work in the window cleaning business he ran before the trial

Arts should not presume on public subsidy, says Rees-Mogg

By Nicholas de Jongh, Arts Correspondent

Arts organisations must no longer rely on stable public subsidies for their sustenance and should not assume that such revenue will continue to increase, the Arts Council chairman, Sir William Rees-Mogg, will warn in a lecture next Monday.

He confesses himself "shocked by the number of performing companies who are gutting themselves, having built their subsidy levels to more than half their total revenue."

Any such company was dependent on the future of central government financial policy, over which it and the Arts Council had no control, "to a very dangerous degree."

Sir William, who by implication categorises Sir Peter Hall, the National Theatre director, as one of the defendants, says that Sir Peter reminds him of Shakespeare's Cardinal Wolsey in Henry VII: "Oh how wretched... is that poor man that hangs on Prince's favour."

He said: "I do not want our great arts institutions to presume on a security that cannot be guaranteed, as the great monasteries presumed on their security 450 years ago." He was on the side of the National Theatre, but no more strongly than he would have been on the side of Glastonbury Abbey.

Sir William proceeds from this caution about the limitations of public spending to urge a new realism on Arts Council clients, even while he argues for an increase in public expenditure on the arts.

He says the Arts Council had to make clear to its clients that if they could not live on their box office receipts and their grants, there was no more to give them.

He felt angry that the council had been much criticised for its decision to make "a tiny shift, at most a 3 per cent shift" from metropolitan to regional arts. This did much less than balance the account.

It was an inevitable shift from the rich to the poor, from rich audiences to poor audiences, from institutions funded in millions to institutions funded in tens of thousands.

He sympathised with the National Theatre, "housed in that great concrete dreadnought on the South Bank," but he sympathised far more with the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool, "on the edge of the worst area of social suffering and deprivation in England."

The National received £8.7 million from the Arts Council, the Everyman, even after money for developments would receive less than £250,000.

Sir William said that he could never understand why the Treasury wanted to make "cheese-paring cuts in arts spending." When the Arts Council gave the best value for money in job creation of any part of the state system.

Apart from a wish to see the "absurdity" of VAT on the arts removed, Sir William lamented the fact that many artists seemed to be trapped "in a dated and provincial set of attitudes, the post-Fabian Guardian consciousness of genteel academic collectivism."

Services discharge 87 gays

By Alan Travis

Eighty-seven people were discharged from the armed services in 1984 on the grounds of being gay or lesbian, according to the Ministry of Defence yesterday.

The figures were disclosed in a letter from the Ministry of Defence to the House of Commons.

Mr. Robert J. Coldenwood, secretary of the Department of Health and Social Security, said: "The DSS is responsible for administering the scheme known as the Poverty Programme and set up by the European Council of Ministers last December."

The DSS had suggested that Scotland ought to be entitled to £12 million, to be used for funding a variety of voluntary organisations and local authority projects.

In its letter, the Scottish Office said that the small amount of funds available did not justify the extra administrative expense. A spokesman said yesterday: "In value for money terms, the Secretary of State, Mr. George Younger, has decided that the money does not justify the effort."

Scotland denied chance of EEC poverty grant

By David Rose

Scotland has been prevented by the Government from taking advantage of a new £12 million Common Market poverty alleviation programme, it was confirmed yesterday.

The decision, disclosed in a letter from the Scottish Office, was made by the Secretary of State, Mr. Robert J. Coldenwood, secretary of the Department of Health and Social Security.

Outside Scotland, the DSS is responsible for administering the scheme known as the Poverty Programme and set up by the European Council of Ministers last December.

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Dismissals upheld

FOUR baggage handlers at Heathrow airport sacked in 1982 on suspicion of taking part in thefts from luggage yesterday lost the latest round of their unfair dismissal claims.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal dismissed appeals by the four who challenged the basis of an internal inquiry by British Airways after criminal proceedings against them had been dropped.

They claimed it was unfair of British Airways to have based misconduct charges against them on statements taken by police which had been ruled inadmissible in criminal proceedings.

The four who lost appeals were Sorjit Dhallwail, Christopher Weightman, of Hanwell, and Rowland Nicholson, of Isleworth, all of Middlesex, and Timothy Fitzgerald, of Norwood, south London.

The tribunal also dismissed appeals by British Airways in the case of two other men, Arthur Day, of Hounslow, and Neil Tallentire, of South Harrow.

Print workers confirm strike action in secret ballot forced by High Court

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

Members of the National Graphical Association have voted to continue strike action at the Wolverhampton Express and Star following a secret ballot forced by a High Court injunction obtained by the newspaper's owners.

Talks at the London offices of the conciliation service Acas were adjourned yesterday, but are expected to resume on Monday.

The dispute over the introduction of new technology has failed to stop publication of the paper, although edition changes have been cut back to a quarter of their normal level. About a third of the NGA's membership has been crossing picket lines after the management a fortnight ago suspended about two-thirds of NGA members after they refused to handle classified advertising material which had been keyed into a computer typesetter by advertising staff instead of by NGA compositors.

In the ballot, held under the Trade Union Act 1984, NGA members at the Express and Star, Shropshire Star, and Precision Colour Printing backed the strike by 154 votes to 33. The 24 ballot papers not returned.

The Express and Star is planning to introduce shortly full direct input of all editorial and advertising copy. Management has promised no compulsory redundancies, and fixed pay levels of around £200 a week to staff transferred from composing rooms to editorial and advertising areas.

NGA members transferred to editorial would be given the post of production co-ordinators. Their role would be to type in "non-creative" material, such as football league tables, as well as to bring up onto electronic screens specific pages for sub-editors to lay out.

The NGA is seeking greater collective bargaining rights for the union for its members transferred to the editorial area. Members of the National Union of Journalists at the Express and Star are seeking a £30 a week increase per member for working with the new technology. The management has offered £8 a week.

NUJ members have been crossing NGA picket lines. They believe that no request has come from the NGA not to cross them because the NGA, in a parallel technology dispute at the Portsmouth News, has been crossing NUJ picket lines.

The NUJ chapel at Portsmouth is to meet on Monday to discuss the company's latest offer made at talks earlier this week. About 70 journalists have been locked out for 13 weeks for refusing to work the second phase of the management's technology plan until management withdraws its proposal to transfer three NGA members to the sub editor's desk with full representational rights being given to the NGA.

Doorstep pint to go up 1p

A doorstep pint is likely to go up 1p to 23p from April 1, the Milk Marketing Board said yesterday.

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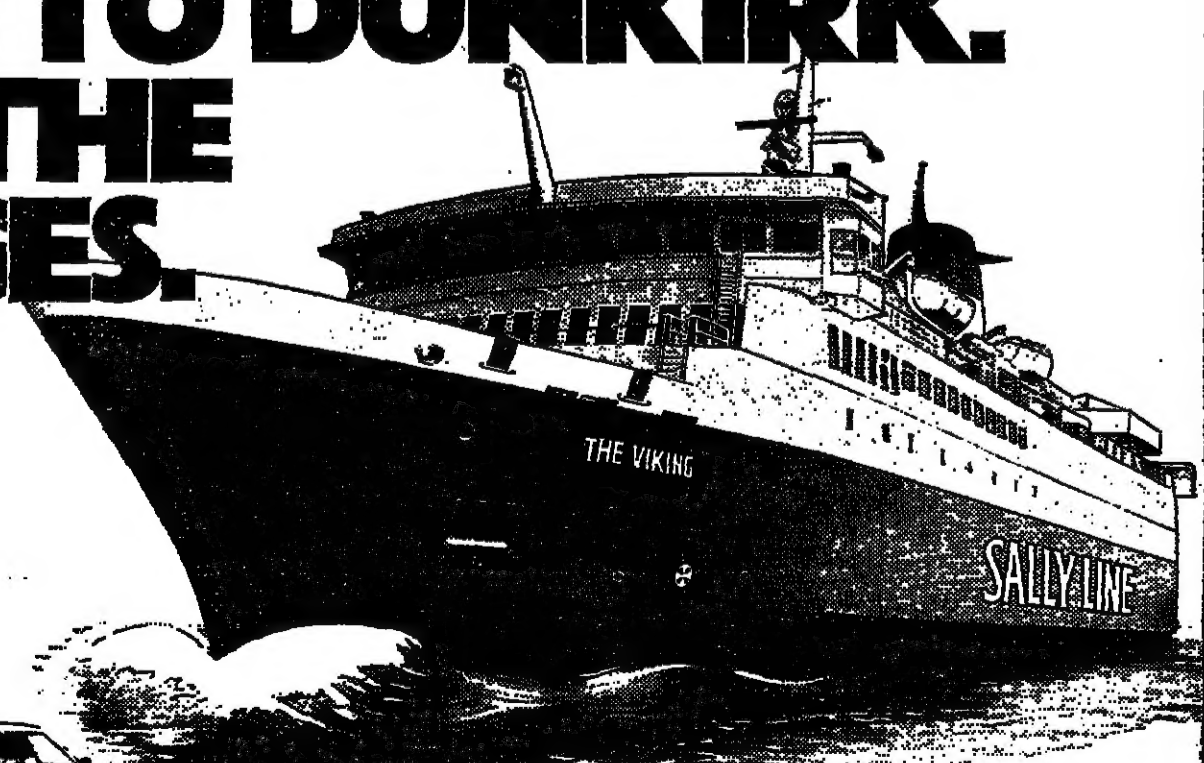
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OVERSEAS NEWS

THE GUARDIAN Saturday March 9 1985 5

Fury as sergeant is killed in clash on new Litani line

Israelis warn Lebanon of 'ruin' unless fighting stops

From Julie Flint in Beirut

After three clashes in nine days between the Israeli and Lebanese armies in southern Lebanon, Israel yesterday warned Lebanon to avoid further trouble or see its army "ruined."

The warning was delivered 24 hours after an Israeli soldier died in the latest confrontation on the Lebanese side of the Litani River.

WASHINGTON: The aircraft carrier Eisenhower, and the guided-missile cruiser Mississippi, were abruptly ordered to leave Spain for the Middle East on Thursday night, leaving behind 100 sailors in the process, US sources said.

Israel's new front line, north of the Litani River, Sergeant Nebouani Amad, a 20-year-old Druse paratrooper, was the first Israeli soldier to die at the hands of the Lebanese army, and his death provoked a furious response from Israel.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Levy, speaking on Israeli radio after attending Sergeant Amad's funeral, said Lebanon "a country gripped by madness," was heading for self-destruction if it permitted these clashes to continue.

"If its army also enters this cycle of madness," Mr Levy went on, "it will be ruining itself."

Thursday's fighting at the village of Kawariyet es Siyad, a frontline Lebanese army position, was the most serious of the three clashes to date. Shells fired from Israeli tanks were hitting the small farming village, without drawing any response from the Lebanese side. Four hours after Israeli tanks first began advancing towards it.

The Lebanese army accused the Israelis of opening fire. The Israeli army said that its troops were fired upon from Lebanese positions while in hot pursuit of suspected guerrillas.

Major Zein Khalife, the commanding officer in Kawariyet, the scene of two of the three clashes, insists that he has never given the order to open fire, and Western observers here do not dispute his word. Unlike the Israelis, the Lebanese army has little or no artillery along its front line, and cannot afford a defeat on the ground either politically or militarily.

Many Western diplomats believe that the Israelis have been provoking their Lebanese counterparts to undermine their credibility as a peace-keeping force in southern Lebanon, and to "teach them a lesson" because of their alignment with Lebanese resistance fighters.

This alignment is an inescapable fact of life if Lebanon's national unity cabinet is to hold together.



An elderly villager with a Soviet AK-47 rifle guards his home in Kawariyet Assayad, south Lebanon, during a battle between Lebanese and Israeli troops

Beirut car bomb kills 40

BEIRUT: A car bomb exploded yesterday outside a crowded mosque in a densely populated Shiite Muslim suburb, and Lebanon's government radio said 40 people were killed and more than 150 others wounded.

The radio appealed for blood donors.

It said the blast in the neighbourhood of Ghobeiri, brought down an eight-storey block of flats and severely damaged a mosque where worshippers were gathering for dusk prayers.

A cinema was also damaged, and four other blocks of flats caught fire, the radio report said.

The blast was the worst since the truck bombing of American and French peace-keeping headquarters here in October, 1983.

Police estimated the weight of the bomb at 220lb of explosives. They said the bomb could not be determined because it was reduced to small pieces of twisted metal.

Witnesses said they could see from a distance huge clouds of white and grey smoke billowing from the scene.

The state radio quoted a spokesman at his home as saying he and his family were not hurt by the bomb. Witnesses said Hezbollah militants and others from the largest Shiite militia group, Amal, sealed off the neighbourhood to help the movement of ambulances.

AP.

Iraq launches new retaliatory raids on Iran

Tehran: Iraq bombed four Iranian towns yesterday, killing and wounding hundreds of civilians in a further escalation of the Gulf War, Iran's national news agency, Irna, reported.

Residents of the southern Iraqi port of Basra, meanwhile, said Iranian artillery had resumed bombarding the city, as threatened earlier by Iranian leaders.

Irna said Iraqi fighter-bombers attacked Susangerd, Abadan, and Khorramshahr in Iran's southern Khuzestan province and the border town of Piranshahr in West Azarbaijan province.

The latest series of strikes on civilian centres started with Iraqi raids on Monday on an unfinished nuclear plant at Bushehr and a steel complex at Ahvaz in which at least 11 people died.

The air raids followed a declaration by President Ali Khamenei of Iran that Iran would stop attacks on Iraqi civilian targets if Iraq agreed to do the same, but that Iran would continue meanwhile to retaliate for Iraqi attacks.

Irna said President Khamenei made the declaration in his sermon at a prayer congregation held at Tehran university campus, attended by hundreds of thousands of Iranians.

Irna quoted the governor of West Azarbaijan province, Mr Alireza Attar, as saying that 400 civilians were killed or wounded in the raid on Piranshahr. Rescue workers from nearby areas helped residents pull the dead and wounded from the rubble, the agency reported.

Five minutes later, Iraqi jets attacked three poor areas in the southern town of Susangerd with rockets and cluster bombs, killing 40



President Khamenei: 'Iran will strike back'

people and wounding scores of others, Irna said.

It reported that two Iraqi planes also attacked the battered oil town of Abadan, across the Shatt al-Arab waterway from Basra, killing 10 people, wounding six and destroying 50 houses and shops.

The border town of Bostan in Khuzestan province also came under air attack. The Iranian military control the town and civilians have not been allowed to return since it was recaptured from Iraqi forces last year.

Irna said nearly 400 civilians have been killed or injured in Khuzestan province alone so far this week in Iraqi air and missile attacks.

The air, missile and artillery strikes appeared to have destroyed an agreement reached under UN auspices last June to halt attacks on civilian areas. The accord was reached after a series of strikes and counter strikes left hundreds of civilians dead and wounded.

After Iran launched its first retaliatory bombardment of Basra in Tuesday after giving residents several hours' warning, Iraq threatened strikes against some 30 Iranian cities and towns. — Reuters/AP.

Polisario beaten by wall of sand

From David Bradshaw in Marrakesh

The guerrillas of the Polisario Front have been virtually neutralised militarily if not yet physically eliminated by the biggest sand castle in the world.

Despite the military communications issued out of Algiers claiming military successes against the wall, the Polisario's diplomatic successes and permits King Hassan to reject all talk of a compromise solution involving limited autonomy for Western Sahara within the Moroccan state, which Algeria recently proposed. On Sunday the King said the Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara was subject to neither negotiation nor concession.

The wall snakes across stony desert plains, mountain ridges and sandy valley bottoms, a single or double ridge of sand two to four yards high, lined with minefields and electronic surveillance equipment said to be supplied by the US Westinghouse Corporation. On the wall at half-mile intervals are small forward posts manned by a dozen or so soldiers.

In front of the walls at a distance of between half a mile and two miles are sonnettes, the advance warning posts which are the first to raise the alarm or suffer the consequences of a Polisario attack. Behind the walls and between three and six miles away are command posts with mechanised forces serving eight to twelve mile sections of the wall.

It is a complex system that Morocco's enemies claim was set up entirely under US directives. The Moroccan commanders say it is an entirely Moroccan concept.

How it was paid for is another matter. Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti funds are reported to have been vital in its construction. Morocco has between 80,000 and 100,000 men in Western Sahara and given the system of rotation in operation, another 60,000 are on the wall at any one time. It's a low density defence, but it has proved extremely effective against Polisario and standing on top of the walls it's easy to see why. Pushed up on the desert sands by bulldozers it would take another bulldozer or at least a tank to break them down.

Polisario do occasionally use tanks — they are estimated to have over 60 Russian built T-55s and another 60 BMP missile-carrying tracked troop transporters. But Polisario's operations are essentially based upon lightning strikes mounted by columns of Land-Rovers.

The guerrillas are effectively screened from the important military target of the Western Sahara.

Shia 'threat' at UN

From Jane Roskin in New York

The US has notified the UN Security Council that Shi'ite Muslim groups are seeking to intimidate council members by threatening violence if the US or Britain vetoes a pending Lebanese resolution condemning Israeli actions in south Lebanon.

The ambassador, Mrs Jane Kirkpatrick, told the council on Thursday that US and UN officials have received three different warnings from the Shi'ites — on February 3, March 1, and March 3 — that countries vetoing the resolution, specifically the US and Britain, would be subjected to "strong problems."

Dr Kirkpatrick urged the council to take the threats seriously. She noted that last September when the US vetoed a resolution similar to the one which is now under consideration, the group known as Islamic Holy War threatened retaliation, and shortly afterwards a suicide bomber blew up a Jerry outside the American embassy in Beirut.

The resolution condemns Israel's attacks on the Shi'ite guerrillas in southern Lebanon and its punitive measures against Shi'ite villages. The US opposes the resolution on the ground that it fails to take account of the killings of Israeli soldiers.

The Arabs and their friends are strongly backing the resolution and the only question now is whether they can get a majority in the council. If they do, the US would exercise its veto regardless of Shi'ite threats.

Muslim extremists form world council

By Peter Grimsditch

A group of extremist Muslim leaders from throughout the Middle East have banded together in Tehran to form an Islamic world revolution council, according to a privately-circulated newsletter released this weekend.

The council has received the approval of the Iranian leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, and includes the man accused of masterminding the suicide attacks on the US embassy and Marine headquarters in Beirut, an Egyptian fundamentalist leader whose party produced the group that assassinated President Anwar Sadat in October, 1981.

It also includes Lebanon's leading figure in Hezbollah (Party of God) and the representative in Britain of a Shi'ite opposition party active in Iraq

and Bahrain that has claimed responsibility for bomb attacks in those two countries.

The Supreme Council of Islamic World Revolution was elected from a meeting of more than 500 religious leaders of both Shi'a and Sunni Muslims that took place in the first week in February. Also attending the meeting, described as a conference of Islamic thought, were several figures seen by Western sources as responsible for the spread of terrorism in the Middle East.

The council members were invited to visit Ayatollah Khomeini at his home in Jamana, near Shumiran, a Tehran suburb. That meeting did not take place because of a deterioration in the Ayatollah's health but was replaced by a meeting with Said Mehdi Hashemi, former head of the National Resistance Movement in the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Mr Hashemi is now in charge of the Bureau of Ideological Education of Muslim Youth, one of the main functions of which is to supervise the training of suicide squads. The bureau operates from a special camp at Muzmirah Gardens, near Ayatollah Khomeini's home.

The revolutionary council members toured the camp where 800 recruits from various Gulf states, as well as Iraq and Lebanon, were being trained under the supervision of Mohammed Shama'akhani, deputy commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard (Pasadran).

The formation of the council is revealed in At-Taqrir ("The Report"), an Arabic subscription-only newsletter circulating in Britain, the United States and the Middle East. At-Taqrir is put out by Ali Ballout, a Lebanese journalist and publisher now resident in London.

Mr Ballout said the creation of this council increases the possibility of worldwide terrorist action by Islamic fundamentalists, violence is not the only aim of the council.

It also wants to spread Islamic influence by economic, political and diplomatic means throughout the world, but especially in Indonesia, Nicaragua, and the Philippines.

The president of the council is Sayyed Mohammed Taqi al-Madrisi, leader of the Islamic Action Party (Hezbu al-Amal al-Islami), which opposes the policies of Iraq's President Saddam Hussein, and also operates in Bahrain.

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Chinese admit to a taste for adultery

From Mary-Louise O'Callaghan in Beijing

China, which created the time-honoured institution of concubines, is again experiencing adultery on a large scale. But this time it is neither publicly practised nor condoned by the country's leadership. Instead it is being blamed for one out of every five marriage break-ups in the People's Republic.

According to two surveys recently published in the official Chinese press, the intrusion of a third party in the guise of more than 100,000 of the divorcees sought each year — for intrusion read adultery.

Younger people, often with no children, are more likely to have affairs outside the marriage, a report in a Shanghai daily newspaper concluded. According to the magazine Women in China, some Chinese have decided that "Freedom in Marriage" should include extra-marital sex, a view not shared by the Chinese Communist Party.

In fact, a survey of 1,363 women by the magazine found 7 per cent willing to contradict the party and assert that they were in favour of affairs — an astounding statistic in a country that officially depicts the vigils of pre-marital sex. However, the magazine said 80 per cent of women still said they opposed adultery.

"People who commit adultery are merely seeking objects of their flighty affections, an attitude caused by bourgeois thinking," it said.

The practice of separating couples when assigning jobs so that many Chinese see their partners only once or twice a year until retirement may also have something to do with the increase in adultery and the spiralling divorce rate.

"Lack of love between husband and wife because of a rash marriage, conflict between lust for material comforts and life's realities, lack of moral values, interference from third parties, and abuse of women who give birth to baby girls by men who hold old feudal ideas about male superiority," have also been cited for the recent rise in divorces.

Last big Khmer rebel base awaits Vietnamese assault

From Nicholas Cunningham-Bruce in Bangkok

Vietnamese artillery yesterday laid down their heaviest barrage yet on the Kampuchean mountain resistance base at Tatum on the border with Thailand as Hanoi brought up more reinforcements opposite the camp.

The guerrillas, followers of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, still holding positions several miles from Tatum, a rebel spokesman said yesterday. The spokesman added: "This morning they started to stop us from smiling."

Relief agencies said more than 80 wounded rebels had been evacuated in four days of fighting.

The rebels fear that the heavy Vietnamese build-up opposite Tatum is the prelude to a bigger infantry assault than they have yet faced.

"The Vietnamese have not broken our lines," the spokesman said, emphasising the difficulties of a frontal assault up the steep escarpment leading to the base. "But they do not mean to lose, they may try to push through."

Thai and foreign journalists came under Vietnamese artillery fire as they drove near the Kampuchean border to cover the fighting. No one was injured as they fled from their buses and dived for cover.

Tatum is the only major guerrilla base still intact since Hanoi launched its offensive in November.

Despite the heavy bombardment of the base, fighting on the Thai side of the camp has now largely ceased and Prince Sihanouk, who arrived in Bangkok on Thursday, is expected to visit the area in the next few days.

The Thai Army commander, General Arthit Kamlangke, said yesterday that Thai troops had buried more than 135 Vietnamese troops since the fighting erupted on Tuesday, when Hanoi's forces attempted to circle though Thai territory to attack Tatum from the rear.

Thai losses were 10 soldiers killed, 34 wounded and six missing, he said. He added: "The kill ratio is satisfactory."

● Vietnam agreed yesterday to an international conference on Kampuchea, Japan's Kyoto news agency reported in a dispatch from Hanoi.

Kyodo said the idea was discussed during talks between the Australian Foreign Minister, Mr Bill Hayden, and his Vietnamese counterpart, Mr Nguyen Co Thach. Mr Hayden announced Vietnam's agreement on a conference at a Hanoi news conference.

It is the first time that Vietnam has expressed an interest in attending such a meeting.

In Peking, a television report last night said that Chinese troops attacked Vietnamese positions along the border yesterday and "wiped out their active strongholds."

Mr Hayden said that the Vietnamese Foreign Minister had stressed, however, that Hanoi would only participate in a conference if the Khmer Rouge were excluded.

He said he would like to persuade China to attend the talks. China, the rebels' main backer, earlier this week rejected the conference call by Prince Sihanouk, saying Vietnam must first pull out of Kampuchea.

New Delhi: The Indian government is to file a lawsuit in the US on behalf of all victims of the poison gas leak that killed at least 2,500 people last December, a senior Indian official said yesterday.

The Minister of State for Law, Mr H. R. Bhargava, said in an interview that the Law Secretary, Mr B. S. Sekhon, was putting finishing touches to the lawsuit in the US and it would be filed "in the next few days."

He said that India's Attorney-General, Mr K. Parasaran, had reported after a visit to the US in January that the Indian Government could intervene on behalf of the gas victims.

Meanwhile, four people were killed and 11 injured during election violence in the south Indian city of Hyderabad, the Press Trust of India said.

The news agency said that authorities in Andhra Pradesh state imposed a curfew on the old quarter of the capital after police opened fire to curb clashes between rival groups. — Reuters.

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Award-winning Third World journalist dies

DENZIL Peiris, who died suddenly in London yesterday, was in his quiet way one of the Third World's most distinguished journalists. He had been editor of South, the Third World magazine, since it was launched in 1979 and for seven years before that had been political editor of the Hong Kong-based Far Eastern Economic Review.

Mr Peiris, who was 67, was born in Sri Lanka but had lived "in voluntary exile" since the country became a republic in 1972. In recent years he became increasingly disenchanted with the regime of President Julius Jayewardene, and in his last published column, in the current issues of South, decried what he saw as "the decay of manners and morals" on the island.

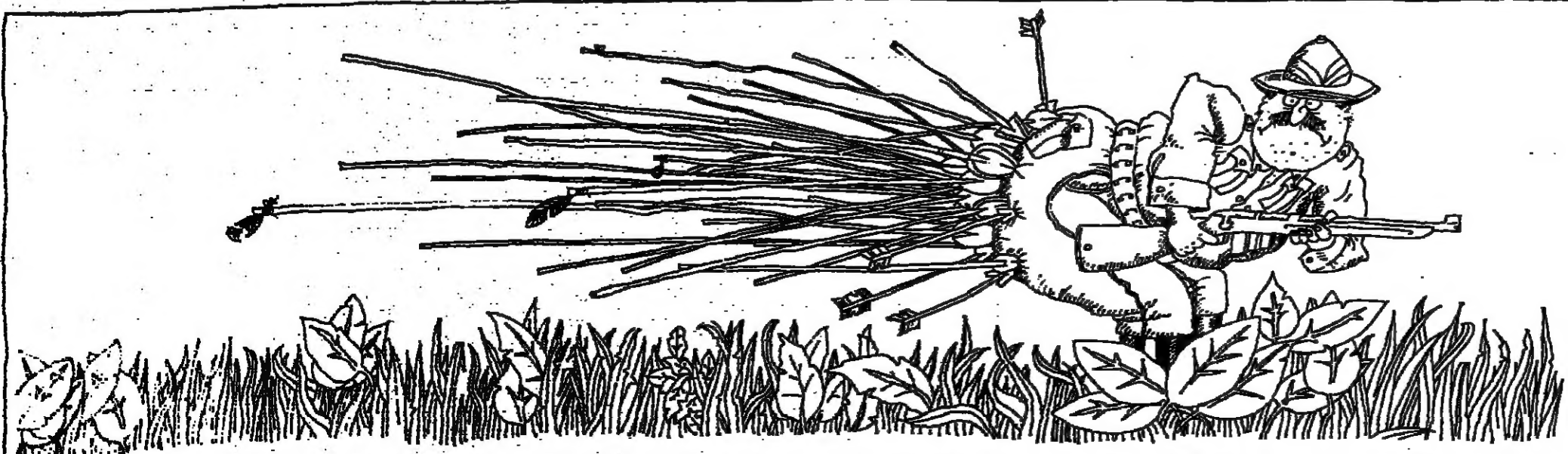
Earlier, however, he had been editor of the Ceylon Observer (1960-71) and before that of the Janata Weekly (1953-60). His book, Revolution in

the Middle East, won him a UNESCO prize for promoting international understanding. In 1978, he won the Mitsui Prize as Asian journalist of the year.

Among the many people he interviewed — and often argued with — were President Nasser, Mrs Indira Gandhi, Ayatollah Khomeini, and Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister. On Thursday, he had returned from Vienna where he had had a long session with Dr Kurt Waldheim, the former UN secretary-general.

For a period in the late 1970s, he was co-editor of the Guardian Third World Review and frequently contributed to its pages. A collection of his back-page column in South, People, Places and Politics, is to be published shortly.

Mr Peiris, a passionate cricket enthusiast who loved serious music and photography, the English countryside, leaves a widow, Nicole, one son and one daughter.



New Cushioncare from the makers of Elastoplast. For your larger than average wound.

Cushioncare is a great big patch for the sort of injuries that used to need lint and bandages.

A comfortable cushion of highly absorbent non-stick Melolin is surrounded by an extremely sticky low allergy adhesive material known as Hypafix.

Until recently a dressing like Cushioncare was only available in hospitals.

Now that it's in your local chemist, you might say that it's just what the doctor ordered.



Bonn elite brave nuclear war test in bunker

From our Correspondent in Bonn

SEVERAL hundred parliamentarians, ministry officials, psychiatrists, women secretaries and catering staff, simulating an "emergency government," yesterday disappeared into a nuclear bomb-proof bunker south of Bonn in which 3,000 of the country's political elite hope to survive an atomic war.

The six-day test, during which "laws" are passed and "ceasefire negotiations" held with an imagined enemy, is part of West Germany's contribution to Nato's Command Staff exercises that take place every two years.

It involves 23 selected Bundestag MPs, civil servants, and maintenance staff. Mr. Waldemar Schreckenberg, one of Chancellor Kohl's chief aides, plays Chancellor and head of the crisis administration.

The anti-nuclear Green Party yesterday boycotted the test, saying that the party could not allow its MPs to take part in scenarios of a nuclear war that no one could survive.

The bunker, West Germany's most secret and expensive building project — estimated to have cost \$1.4 billion to build and \$8.5 million a year to run — is situated in the vineyards of the Ahr valley, some 15 miles from Bonn.

Yesterday, troops from the paramilitary border police blocked the main approach to the complex and patrolled the surrounding area in the wine villages of Dernau and Marienthal.

The few inhabitants of Dernau are probably not aware that one of the entrances to the concrete fortress lies underneath a children's playground in the centre of the village. Nor will they be protected by a bunker of their own despite the fact that the Government's choice makes them a likely target in the event of war.

Mr. Michael Preute, the author of the only book on the project, has revealed that the bunker, completed in 1970, is situated below the former Dernau-Marienthal concentration camp where, from 1944, some 200 inmates were used as slave labour for a Koblenz building firm.

The bunker lies underneath an old railway tunnel used by Hitler to have V2 rockets assembled by "foreign workers" during the Second World War. The citizens of Dernau do not like to be asked questions about the bunker or the concentration camp. An anonymous sign reading "To the Dernau KZ" was quickly removed during the peak of anti-nuclear protests in 1983.

The main entrance to the 20-mile long bunker, divided into three main sections, is a well-guarded secret, one theory being that it has a direct link with the Defence Ministry complex in Bonn. A straight stretch of motorway running overhead could be used as an airport runway.

According to Mr. Preute, those taking part in the exercise see only a small section of the vast complex — enough to make the help of psychologists and psychiatrists necessary for the alcoholic excesses and nervous breakdowns that accompany the test period.

The several hundred military and civilian staff guarding the bunker have six weeks' spells of duty, followed by two weeks off. Mr. Preute's research has shown that the air conditioning system is insufficient, with the minimum temperature not

sinking below 24 degrees C. The neon lighting had to be largely replaced because of its "stress effects" on inmates.

The complex houses dormitories of six-bed conference rooms and one assembly hall for several hundred people. The bunker government will issue instructions to dozens of crisis committees from a "command centre," a room painted in "warm red and green colours."

Inhabitants can pass through the underground passages, miles long, not only on foot, but also by bicycle and with electric powered vehicles. German precision has not failed here, reminding inmates of a "three mile an hour speed limit" — except for pedestrians.

Other signposts serve as morale boosters advising those in the bunker that "order frees from danger." Jogging and cycling are recommended

as a therapy to counter stress induced by the labyrinth.

Inmates have to wear on their bodies plastic identity cards with electronic ciphers which prevent them from crossing from one section of the bunker to the other. To complete the Orwellian picture, loudspeakers and sirens go on automatic warning when "sensitive areas" are approached, with automatic security gates closing in on them.

According to Mr. Preute, the prototype project, designed by strategists with a Second World War bunker mentality, adopted a momentum of its own. He maintains that those responsible "lost all sense of reality" and that large parts of the bunker are not nuclear proof. Concrete can do nothing against the high precision of modern nuclear missiles, he concludes.

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SIGN OF DEFIANCE: An anti-nuclear protester holding up a sign as the American destroyers John Young and Buchanan left Sydney harbour yesterday with 11 Australian navy ships for exercises off the coast

Free Democrats hold answer to future of the alliance

Kohl faces key test in state polls

From Anna Tomforde in Bonn

The popularity of Chancellor Kohl's centre-right Government at half-term will be tested in two state elections tomorrow in Saarland and West Berlin. Attention is focused on the performance of the small, liberal Free Democratic Party which, according to opinion polls, may not be returned to the state assemblies.

If the FDP, which recently changed leaders in an attempt to gain appeal as a centrist party for big business and the self-employed, fails to reach the 5 per cent needed for representation, Chancellor Kohl could eventually be forced to call off the conservative-liberal alliance at national level ahead of the 1987 general election.

The polls are also expected to confirm the rise of the anti-establishment Green Party, although surveys have shown that the popularity of the Greens has recently stagnated around the 10 per cent vote level.

In West Berlin, the energetic but colourless CDU mayor, Mr. Eberhard Diepgen, is expected to hold, or even improve, the conservative grip on the city which he means giving priority to protecting the environment and cutting back large-scale industrial production.

In the national SPD, Mr. Lafontaine has long stood for anti-nuclear and anti-Nato policies, calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops and urging West Germany to follow the example of France by pulling out of Nato's integrated military structure.

vide a suitable candidate for the delicate post of mayor in the four-power city.

Mr. Hans Apel, the former defence minister, to the right of the SPD, has failed to adapt to the special mentality of West Berlin voters. He has made what many regard as the foolish mistake of ruling out any cooperation with the Alternative List (AL), the radical equivalent of the Green Party there. The AL is expected to win up to 14 per cent of the vote and could hold the balance of power. Instead, Mr. Apel has offered to "tolerate" a CDU government in Berlin.

The picture is vastly different in the industrial Saarland, the country's second largest steel region, with 14 per cent unemployment, now ruled by a conservative-liberal coalition.

According to predictions, the SPD, under its fiery leftwing candidate, 41-year-old Mr. Oskar Lafontaine, could become the biggest party in the state.

If Mr. Lafontaine, who is mayor of the state capital, Saarbrücken, takes over, experts predict wide-ranging implications for the SPD at national level. Mr. Lafontaine is an ardent campaigner for new ideology of "eco-socialism," by which he means giving priority to protecting the environment and cutting back large-scale industrial production.

In the national SPD, Mr. Lafontaine has long stood for anti-nuclear and anti-Nato policies, calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops and urging West Germany to follow the example of France by pulling out of Nato's integrated military structure.

Blasts 'to back miners'

Bochum, West Germany: Three bombs damaged offices in Bochum, Essen and Hamm yesterday, and a left-wing terrorist group said the attacks were made to support the British miners.

Police said the blasts, which caused considerable damage but no injuries, came nearly 12 hours after another terrorist group claimed responsibility for bombing a Dortmund department store, injuring eight people.

The Revolutionary Cells, an underground group that supports the goals of the Red Army Faction, claimed responsibility for yesterday's bombings in a letter delivered to the German News Agency, DPA.

The letter described the three offices as "grave diggers" of the British SPD. They housed the Ruhr Coal Industry Employers' Organisation, the West German Coal Miners' Union, and a chandler.

The letter accused the German coal industry of profiteering during the miners' strike.—AP.

Spanish bachelors win day

From Jane Walker in Madrid

WEDDING bells are already in the air for at least four couples in the remote Spanish village of Plan where 120 local bachelors advertised for brides after most of the women had left the valley to seek more comfortable lives in the city.

About 150 potential brides drove along the mountain roads to the village this week to take part in a three-day fiesta.

At one point, journalists and photographers threatened to outnumber the female visitors, and the mayor restricted the first night of festivities to the bachelors and their guests.

With the aid of much local wine, the couples danced and "became acquainted" throughout the night.

One quarter of the inhabitants of Plan are bachelors. They were inspired to advertise for wives after Spanish television broadcast the William Wellman film "The Women" earlier this year, when a wagon load of women answered a similar call for wives by pioneers of the American West.

Britain opposes exhaust curbs

From Derek Brown in Brussels

After 19 hours of talks, EEC environment ministers decided yesterday that more work is needed on car pollution controls.

When the ministers trooped from the Charlemagne building here, they left unsettled a bitter dispute which could cost industry and consumers \$9 billion a year.

That is the EEC commission's estimate of the total cost of compelling motorists to fit catalytic converters to exhausts. The devices remove toxic gases from exhaust fumes, and though the scientific evidence is hotly disputed, could reduce the damage being done to European forests by acid rain.

Germany wants the EEC to make converters compulsory and to adopt tough US limits on exhaust fumes. The Bonn government says that it will go ahead unilaterally, necessary with clean car legislation — a move which would fragment the Common Market for vehicles and could invite a new flood of Japanese imports.

Throughout Thursday and the early hours of yesterday, the other car-producing countries tried in vain to budge the Germans from their solo stand. At the EEC summit, the ministers agreed to meet again on March 20, in last attempt to avoid the hideously complex issue being dumped on to the agenda of the next EEC summit.

anti-pollution laws, but most insist that the legislation must be uniform.

Britain, singled out by German press and politicians as the villain of the piece, takes a particularly strong line against catalytic converters. The Environment Minister, Mr. William Waldegrave, and the Industry Minister, Mr. John Butcher, argued long and hard that the devices are expensive, inefficient, and outmoded.

They also insisted that US emission standards are irrelevant to European driving habits and road conditions.

Instead, they argued with French, Dutch, and Italian support, Europe should adopt its own standards, and encourage the car industry to produce a new breed of so-called lean burn engines, designed to produce fewer toxic fumes.

The EEC Commission tried repeatedly through the night to produce complex compromise formulae, setting new targets and timings for emission standards. The various ministers also produced formulae, but none broke down the German insistence on US standards.

Kyprianou pledge on peace plan

By John Torode

President Spyros Kyprianou of Cyprus has told Mrs. Thatcher that he is prepared to look again at the UN peace plan for the island which he refused to sign earlier this year.

On the eve of talks in Geneva with Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General told her that he is seeking international support to keep the UN initiative alive.

This follows a censure motion in the Cyprus House of Representatives on the way he handled the last round of talks at the UN in New York.

The Greek-Cypriot leader set two conditions for further direct talks with the leader of the Turkish-Cypriot community, Mr. Rauf Denktaş: he called for Western pressure to force Mr. Denktaş to abandon plans for elections in the Turkish-occupied north of the island and also wants Mr. Denktaş to confirm that all proposals tabled in New York remain on the table.

Mr. Denktaş has hinted that earlier concessions must now be withdrawn and negotiations started again from the beginning after the election.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Returning emigres branded

EAST GERMANY yesterday stepped up a campaign to expel emigres by publishing letters branding people who wanted to return home from the West as "traitors" and "fortune hunters."

"We don't want them back," our government should stand by the principle of no-way-back and "whoever betrays our republic should stay where he is," ran excerpts from letters published in the Communist Party daily, Neues Deutschland.

The letters, signed by groups of factory workers, and individuals, were presented as a reaction to a government decision, announced on Thursday, to break with precedent and allow some emigres disillusioned with life in the West to return. — Reuter.

Land relief

THE GREEK parliament yesterday passed an amendment concerning foreign-owned property in border areas of Greece, quashing fears that foreigners' holiday villas could be claimed by Greeks who had sold them land for development under a 1961 law, foreigners were barred from purchasing land in border districts of Greece, but during the military dictatorship between 1967 and 1974 some foreigners skirted the letter of the law by setting up a Greek holding company to buy land in border regions.—AP.

Dispute ends

A LABOUR dispute on the French island of St. Pierre and Miquelon in Canada's St. Lawrence river estuary, which led to the forcible expulsion of the prefect last week, has been settled. Workers at the Interpeche fish packing company have agreed with dockers to split the unloading of containers from a new fishing factory vessel, the Bretagne. The work involves 12 men for about 20 hours some six times a year. — AP.

Afghan fighting

SOVIET forces in south-eastern Afghanistan were reported to be moving close to the Pakistan frontier yesterday in what guerrilla sources described as a "huge operation" to cut off their supply lines to the besieged city of Kandahar. Reports of fierce fighting between Islamic rebels and Soviet troops within 30 miles of the Pakistan border were corroborated by two resistance sources. — AP.

Poll violence

FOUR people were killed and 11 others injured yesterday during fresh state election violence in India's opposition-ruled Andhra Pradesh. An indefinite curfew was clamped on the old quarter of the state capital, Hyderabad, after police opened fire to stop street battles between rival supporters. — Reuter.

Freedom plan

URUGUAY'S Senate passed a compromise amnesty plan yesterday that will free all remaining political prisoners, including 61 that the new civilian president, Mr. Julio Sanguinetti, wanted to keep in jail because of their convictions for violent terrorist acts. The proposal will now go to the House of Representatives. — AP.

Homosexual bill

A BILL to legalise homosexuality and allow sexual relations between men over the age of 16 was introduced into the New Zealand Parliament yesterday. There is no legal prohibition against lesbianism. — AP.

Gendarme killed

A GENDARME was killed yesterday by a machete blow in the back while dismantling a roadblock erected by Melanesian independence activists in north-east New Caledonia, police reported in Noumea yesterday. — AP.

Ghana amnesty

THE Ghanaian leader Jerry Rawlings has ordered the release of 202 political prisoners, to mark Independence Day. Those freed included two former government ministers, Mr. J.S. Nabila, and Mr. K. Riley-Poli. — Reuter.

Student arrests

POLICE in Cape Town arrested 12 people, mainly white student leaders, in night raids yesterday and charged them with holding an illegal demonstration four months ago. They were later freed on bail. — AP.

Poles escape

THREE Polish men were freed in Hamburg yesterday after eight days in a ship's ping container and have asked for political asylum in West Germany, police said. — AP.

Shultz blocks loan to Managua

From Mark Tran in Washington

Nicaragua is unlikely to receive a \$150 million loan from the Inter-American Development Bank in an unusual personal intervention, the US Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, wrote a letter to the bank's president at the end of January expressing the Administration's strong opposition to the loan.

Contents of the letter emerged yesterday. Arguing that Nicaragua is not creditworthy, Mr. Shultz expressed concern about the possible misuse of the loan. He said the money would relieve financial pressures and free other resources that could be used to consolidate the Sandinista government and finance aggression against its neighbours.

The loan would have provided financial credits for small and medium sized firms, and for the purchase of supplies needed in the production of basic foods. The letter also contained a veiled threat against the bank, should it approve the loan. Such a move, it said, would make the Administration's efforts to provide new financial contributions to the bank even more difficult.

Because of US pressure, the loan has been sent back to the review stage where it is likely to languish indefinitely. Although a number of Latin American countries fear further politicisation of the bank arising from the latest development they are anxious not to antagonise the US because they, themselves, are so financially dependent on the US.

Tommy Jenkins adds from Managua: The Nicaraguan government claims to have secured a CIA plot involving the best known opposition leader, Dr. Arturo Cruz.

According to a statement from the Interior Ministry, Dr. Cruz, now in Costa Rica, was instructed by the CIA to return to Nicaragua in the hope that he would be arrested for his recent involvement with US-backed counterrevolutionaries.

His arrest would then be used to launch an international campaign "orchestrated to demonstrate that the Sandinista dictatorship was gassing a democrat," like Mr. Cruz. Quoting intelligence sources, the statement says that if Dr. Cruz was not arrested, he would be the victim of an attempted assassination which would then be blamed on the revolutionary government.

Chile seeks creditors' cooperation

From Malcolm Coard in Santiago

Chile has pleaded for "solidarity and cooperation" from its international creditors after last weekend's earthquake. In messages to the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, President Pinochet's Government has asked for permission to reallocate credit granted before the emergency as the money may be used in reconstruction work.

There is no request yet for more loans, but economy ministry sources said that they might follow, despite the country's critical indebtedness. This weekend, the treasury minister, Mr. Hernan Bucci, is due to go to Washington to discuss the financing touches to a new extended-borrowing facility from the IMF, and to begin new loan talks with commercial creditor banks.

He will take with him a voluminous file of disaster details, and there have been signs from Washington that the IMF might be willing to ease the requirements such as its limitation of Chile's fiscal deficit this year to 3 per cent of the growth national product. Chile faces a record \$4.4 billion this year in interest and amortisation payments on its \$20 billion foreign debt and is already looking for \$1.7 billion fresh current account financing.

General reshuffle

From Jeremy Morgan in Buenos Aires

President Raul Alfonsín yesterday appointed the air force commander as head of the joint chiefs of staff, filling the most important vacancy left by the second upheaval in the armed forces since Argentina returned to democracy 15 months ago.

The choice of Brigadier Teodoro Waldner was unprecedented, as the army has traditionally held the top military post. He replaces General Julio Fernandez Torres, whose departure on Monday plunged the Government into a crisis.

The crisis centred on the army, the largest and most politicised of the three services, but also involved the navy and the air force. Seven other army generals, including its commander, have been replaced.

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Paradise that was lost to drug smugglers

From Mohamed Hamaludin in Miami

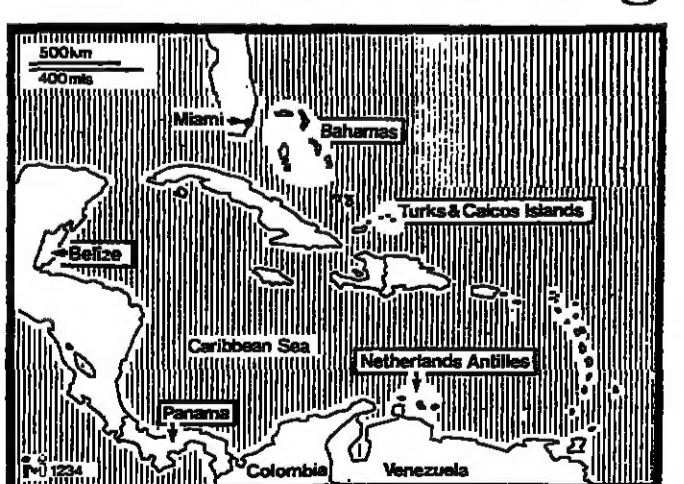
IT HAS been no secret to law enforcement agencies battling to halt or at least slow the flow of billions of dollars' worth of drugs into the US that the tiny British colony of the Turks and Caicos Islands has become a key staging post between Latin America and America.

The Atlantic Ocean colony is ideally placed for drug trafficking, situated as it is almost midway between the two land masses, with seven small islands and several cays scattered over 186 square miles at the bottom of the Bahama chain.

Just how far-reaching the trade may have become was shown when the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) ended a two-month "sting" operation with the arrest here of the colony's Chief Minister, Mr. Norman Saunders, the Development and Commerce Minister, Mr. Stafford Missick, and the parliamentary secretary in the Works Ministry, Mr. Audien Smith.

Mr. Smith, a Canadian resident in the Bahamas, Mr. André Fournier, was arrested with them.

Turks and Caicos police have told of several encounters with drug traffickers who are better equipped in aircraft and boats, better armed, with automatic weapons, and having hundreds of thousands of dollars to buy silence, acquiescence or cooperation from poverty-stricken islanders and their officials. Huge sums are said to be paid for fuel for traffickers' aircraft.



Drug-trafficking through the islands has a population of 3,500 — began a long-standing levels about five years ago when smugglers angry over a missing consignment took over South Caicos airport with machine-guns and threatened to march on the nearby township unless it was returned.

As the menace grew, a special police unit was set up to deal with drug-smuggling. For about four years, operations against great odds, managed to make a dent in the drug trade. It was clearly unable to cope, however, without more substantial resources.

Britain, which has responsibility for the islands' foreign affairs, defence and police, sent a Scotland Yard adviser who ended his assignment with a strict attack on government officials,

claiming they did not cooperate enough.

The anti-drug campaign was intensified after the arrival of Mr. Christopher Turner as the new Governor in October, 1982. Britain made a special grant to finance a more sophisticated fight against the smugglers which saw an enlarged anti-drugs unit staffed by Scotland Yard officers and cooperation with the DEA.

Mr. Turner alluded to this crackdown hours after the arrest of the three officials, saying: "Recently, in police force and the DEA have been seeking to take effective action to prevent the use of these islands as a transit point in the drug trade."

Mr. Turner said that Mr. Saunders had stood with him on his anti-drugs campaign and had committed his government to the crackdown.

Mr. Saunders' political foes, however, maintain that this was a smokescreen to cover a thriving drug-smuggling trade. This was a campaign issue when elections were held in the islands last May, but it did not prevent Mr. Saunders leading his Progressive National Party to victory.

The Chief Minister's little life has also been regarded by detractors as evidence of earnings from a source other than his business ventures and his salary. He is said to have a second and expensive beachfront home on Grand Turk, recently bought a small yacht and drives a second-hand Cadillac.

He has insisted that these come from being a self-made businessman.

At 41, he is the longest-serving member of the colony's legislative council, representing South Caicos.

The arrests were the climax of an operation begun in January by the DEA. An agent posed as a drug-smuggler and made contact with the three through an intermediary to set them for drugs from South America to the US. Meetings were set up in the islands, in Miami, leading to the arrests.

Officials claim they have tapes of the agreements being concluded and it is alleged the men settled for a payment of \$30,000 whenever a shipment of marijuana was allowed to go through, and \$250,000 for a cocaine shipment.

501 من الاموال

Some holidays demand effort; on others the traveller is virtually carried around. A twin series starts this week



Irene McManus explains how she leapt into the saddle, indulged herself nightly and pedalled daily

Two wheels, high heels, big meals

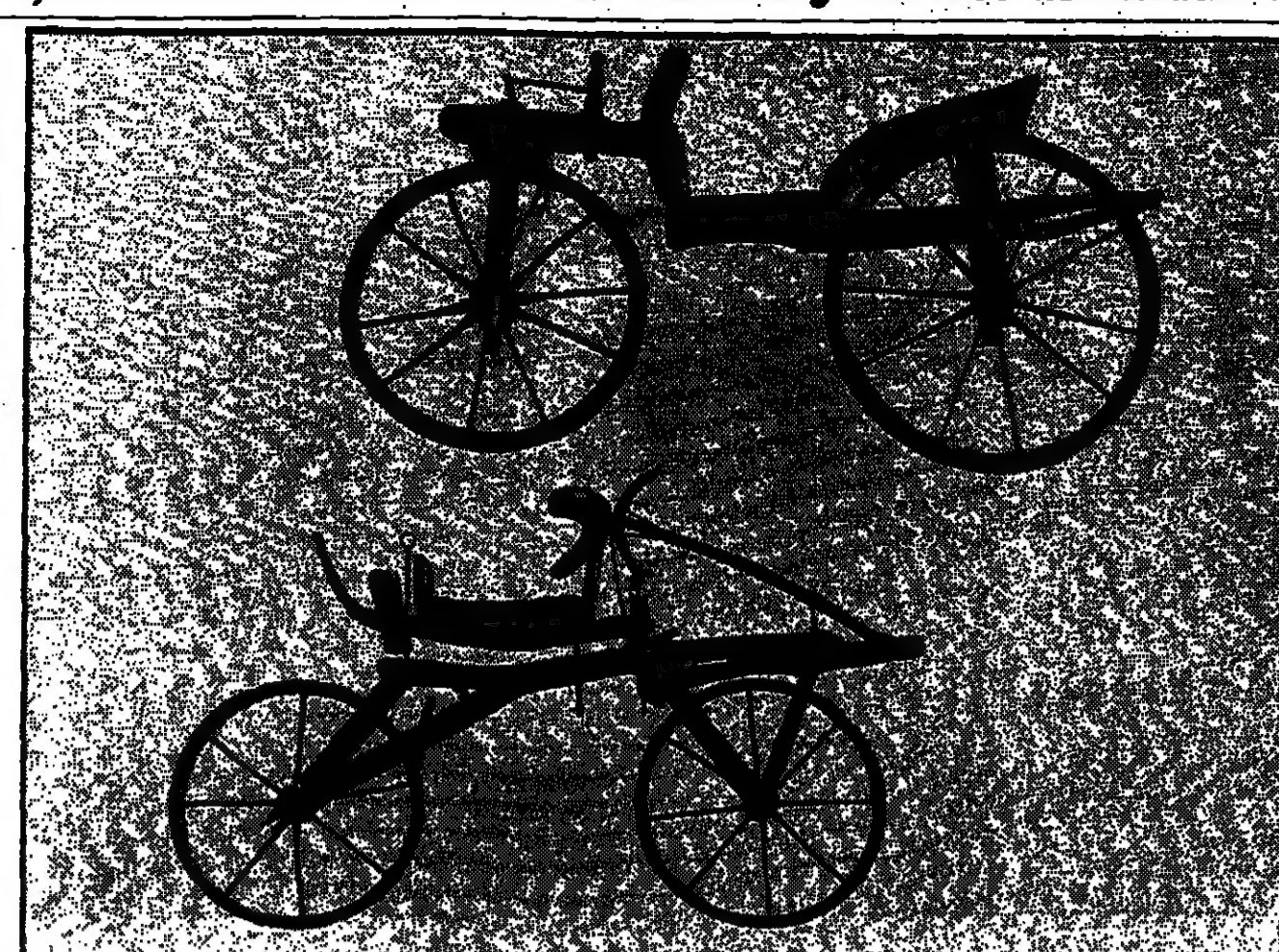
Before the days of the ten-speed gear: early bicycles in the Deutsches Museum in Munich. Picture by Alex Hamilton

SUSI MADRON and husband Roy (a jaundiced academic increasingly fascinated by the three-year-old family business) run the smallest of small travel firms from their home in Manchester. They offer a uniquely personal service, holidays in a choice of three French regions (the Mayenne, Burgundy, the Camargue), tailored to clients' wishes within a loose framework of Stay-Fit and Potter, Gentle Tourer, Adventurer (pick your own route, choose your own Lodges de France hotels), or — the one we chose — a Whizz in the Camargue and Garrigue (different hotel every night, fair old distance — though never, I think, more than 35 kilometres between each stop).

You ferry or fly — what you will — over to France. The bikes, blue and glittering Raleighs, are waiting for you. We had ten-speeds, though the gear were a little stiff on mine. The price is right. One man we met had cycled in France the previous summer and spent more money organising his own holiday than he was spending with the Madrons.

An old hand at the saddle, he'd brought his own saddle, pedals, and full cycling kit — including chamois-lined shorts and gloves. I could have used the shorts and gloves myself. And saddle height is another crucial factor — we spent the first three mornings adjusting nine every time we paused for a swig of lemonade in the scorching sun. Truly the best thing is the thrill of moving forward fast, but still being in touch with the countryside in ways that impinge infinitely more sharply on the intoxicated senses than travelling by car ever can. Hands down, it beats lying on a beach. It's fun to race your friends, flop in a field for a picnic, discover a new town — and at the end of a satisfyingly wearing day, drop your sore arse into a dining-room chair, secure in the knowledge that you've earned every mouthful of the huge dinner you're about to scarf.

The only thing the Madrons have got wrong is that their brochure is strangely short of pertinent information. The unpredictability of this holiday might be half the joy, but



I'm sure people would prefer a franker appraisal of what to expect at each of the extraordinarily diverse hotels on their itineraries. At Beaucourt, for instance, on the River Rhone, we stayed at a very grand establishment — the Hotel des Docteurs. Here, hard-faced women in starched white housecoats, who looked as if they might be in charge of a lunatic asylum, turned out reasonably compliant if you bulldozed cheerfully on and disregarded the frost.

The Madrons are making this hotel their base this year, I'm glad to say. The food was glorious: a wondrous fish soup spiced with the regional specialty rouille (hot red chilli pepper) and garlic mayonnaise, followed by excellent veal and ham main courses, and tiny goat's cheeses. To enjoy this holiday to the full, a taste for goat's cheeses is a distinct advantage.

We wondered whether the Madrons might not do a bit more research in the food line, and perhaps charge a little extra for gourmet biking holidays — instead of routinely booking the

cheapest means for their clients. At tiny Agnes Mortes for a start, there are two good restaurants — one of which, La Camargue, gave us a splendid 78¢ lunch. But the Madrons have evidently not experimented with serious restaurants so far.

The one lousy meal we ate was unfortunately at one of the Madrons' most esteemed hotels — le Vieux Moulin at Pont du Gard. A breathtaking location under Agrippa's awesome 150-foot-high aqueduct didn't compensate for the height of arrogance we met with in the hotel dining-room.

But you can't please all of the people all of the time. One of the Madronettes (travelling remarkably in high heels — the cycling is far from arduous), was unimpressed by French food in general, and positively disliked the meal — at the fabulous L'Auberge du Pont Romain in the medieval town of Sommières.

This three-star 17th century chateau was indisputably our favourite stop, run with casual elegance by the humorous and flirtatious Madame Michel (the most fun

you can have with a Madame in France), and her jolly husband Bernard (the Chef). Bernard is a gem. Every course was indescribably good: duck and blueberry pate, filleted guinea fowl with mint leaves in pastry, superb Roquefort, and stunning desserts. I ate three, I'm afraid, including a slice of Bernard's celebrated prune tart with Amaretto.

Sightseeing in the Camargue and Garrigue in anglophone, particularly the fine examples of Gallo-Roman architecture concentrated in quite a small area. Agnes Mortes hasn't changed a jot in 700 years. From the top of the Constance Tower you get a heady view of the medieval fortified town and the Camargue plain with its pink salt marshes.

In St Gilles, there's the 12th century crypt with the earliest ogival vaulting in France, and deep well down which black Benedictine monks were slung by marauding Protestants during the Wars of Religion). Also the masterly sculptured paragon of Christ's life, a medieval masterpiece carved 1180 to 1240 on the west front

of the church. And a structure of mind-boggling perfection (even seeing it isn't quite believing it), the spiral staircase nicknamed 'St Gilles' Screw.

Nîmes, "French Rome," has two masterpieces of classical architecture in T. Crispus Reburus's great amphitheatre of 80AD (used now for vastly popular bull-fights — in Uzès we saw the severed head of one of the black bulls outside a butcher's shop). And just down the Boulevard Victor Hugo, Agrippa's 1st century BC Roman Square House.

A Cruel town, Nîmes. I won't easily forget the tiny gladiators in the hotel lobby's aquarium: small dark lobsters chewing viciously on the legs of bigger pink lobsters. One of the big ones literally hadn't got a leg left to stomp on. It was much wilder life than the distant glimpses we'd had every day of white horses, black bulls, pink flamingos.

Irene McManus cycled as a guest of Susi Madron's Cycling for Sozies.

Ron Callender travelled with sieve and pan to compete in the goldwashing championships in Lapland

Prospects of delight

THE European Gold Panning Championships are held annually at Tankavaara in Finnish Lapland. When I received an official invitation, only the east deterred me from taking part. The thought was receding from my mind when the advertisement appeared in the Media Page of the Guardian. It was to the point. The British Council was offering travel awards to celebrate its 50th anniversary, and would finance projects contributing to "closer cultural relations between Britain and other countries."

Reaching Helsinki was no problem. British Airways had been coaxed to donate tickets to capital cities. More daunting was the 12-hour train journey to the Arctic Circle, unending vistas of pine forest and well-thumbed phrase book in the dining car. A further four hours by road along the number 4 highway, and I am in the gold village of Tankavaara for an enthusiastic welcome from the only two people I know in Lapland — Kalle Launonen, manager of the village and Ishari Svanen, curator of the gold museum.

All around are signs of the gold business and the forthcoming championships. My hosts are scarily busy preparing for an influx of visitors, but introduce me to Kimmo who has agreed to show me the sights — the gold mining sights of Lapland.

Kimmo, a locally famous prospector on a nearby and distant claim, we travel down the Yvalo river to the remains of a government outpost established in 1870 to service the gold rush. We use the postal river boats on the Lemmenjoki (River of Love) and, with backpack trudge through the wilderness searching out some of the prospectors lingering from the 1945 bonanza.

As a diversion, we contribute one day's manual labour to the preparations for the Gold Panning Championships. My task is to fill a never-ending supply of plastic bags with coarse sand, the significance is a communique at the time. Abruptly the village population increases: gold prospectors, gold washers and gold miners, Red Cross attendants, telephone engineers, and a detachment of police who diligently confiscate all hunting knives.

IBM moves in with a mobile computer van and, all through the night, spectators arrive to create a tented village on the camping grounds.

Saturday morning, Tankavaara resembles a wild west town. Everywhere animated groups discuss gold, and stalls spring up to market the by-products of the gold industry: gold pans, miners' shovels, posters, books, geology courses at university and Finnish beer. I join a long queue of prospectors registering for the championships.

A dignified opening ceremony acknowledges the tenth anniversary of the gold museum and then the first heats are underway. On a signal — two metal gold-washing pans — the competitors wash, scour, comb, shift and refine the bags of gravel I had assembled five days previously in the gold mine. I have now been "seeded" with grains of gold by the organisers.

Heat winners begin to emerge after five minutes' frantic activity and, thanks to the IBM computer, the results are announced with equal promptness. Later in the evening, the same computer determines the battle order for the next day's panning.

The last heat produces the first winner to qualify for the World Championships in Dawson City. The men's final follows and I regret not having had the advantage of practice during the Saturday heats. I can choose the clumsy Lapland goldwasher's pan, which takes inspiration from the end of an oil drum, or my own fast-working plastic pan which is specially imported from Texas — but the referee forbids the attendant sieve designed to separate stones and rocks.

In the static water of the championship ponds, my pan is awkward to handle but I don't leave empty-handed. I keep the gold panned during 12 minutes of competition (which attracted 15 minutes time penalty), collect a certificate of participation, and receive a "memory prize" awarded to all overseas competitors. As a bonus, I am invited to spend the next two days on a gold claim and am able to boost my measure specimen of Lapp gold.

I choose not to draw attention to the matter at Helsinki airport. Under Finnish law, foreigners are not eligible to prospect for gold but I have the feeling my sample will not dent Finland's economy. To me, it is worth its weight in gold.

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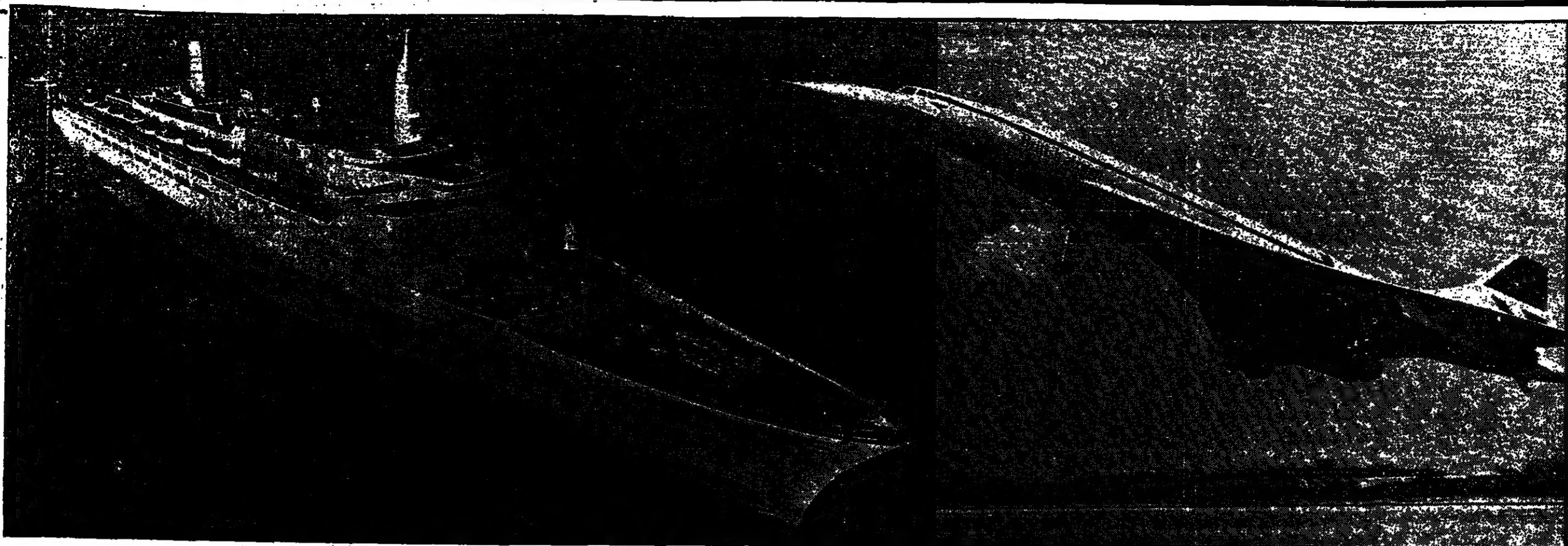
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Between five days on the QE2 and three and a half hours on Concorde, David Leitch relishes a sandwich with a Waldorf Astoria filling

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FOR "as little as" £1,085 — about £300 less than the Concorde one-way fare — Cunard sell as "ultimate trip" five nights on the QE2 from Southampton to New York and 48 hours in the brilliant Waldorf-Astoria on Park Avenue before the return on Concorde.

In New York, the transfers and a sightseeing tour of Manhattan are free, though you can't avoid £35 in port taxes, nor the need to buy your own meals while on dry land. What it amounts to is that anyone with £1,300 (to allow a shopping margin) and six free days can spend both on a fun and style of travel previously restricted to the super-rich.

Or, in the words of old Salt,

a 29-year Cunard veteran with service on all three Queens, which involved him with innumerable examples of the genuine article. "The ordinary bloke can indulge a fantasy of being a millionaire — for a week."

This dream millionaire would have to be highly eccentric because the time scales over the seven days do not, by normal standards, make any sense. Each day aboard the boat you put your watches back an hour at midnight, thus establishing parity with the New York clock by the time you approach the Statue of Liberty soon after dawn on the fifth day out. The process makes every day seem longer, the voyage correspondingly

slower, and encourages a regime of over late nights.

In the overall context, only 48 hours in New York is a bit on the brief side, distinctly too short for serious transactions involving either business or pleasure. Also it probably takes a day to adapt to being on land again. Fellow passengers admiring the magnificent clock in the Waldorf's lobby made in London in the 1890s, agreed that, apart from a distinct Jack Tar roll in their gait, another legacy of the voyage was when Kenny Westmoreland, a composer with 70 crossings to his credit, called "mild boat-lag. It's like jet-lag, only more relaxing."

This evaporates after a night's rest so you have one clear day before it's time to get to the airport and (superficially at 50,000 ft.) retrace a journey which has involved more than four days at sea in around four hours flat. Helped by following winds and the presence of Captain Jack Lowe, who originally tested the supersonic aircraft, we in fact clocked in at 3 hours 50 minutes, which is speedy even for Concorde.

So New York, inevitably, is rushed. It's irritating to have so little time to do what you want, most of which is an exhibition or, since the Waldorf-Astoria (emphatically unlike QE2) is so brilliant a triumph of the decorator's art, simply lounge around its famous Peacock Alley, the best tea

value in the world for my money (around £10 for two at current rates).

Here a pianist plays Cole Porter, the least he can do really since the Alley's most prized possession is Porter's own rosewood Steinway piano. The hotel is the most spectacular example of Art Deco in New York. When I last stayed there in the 1960s, much of it had been covered up, but when the style became modish again they stripped off the Regency stripes paper and carried out a restoration programme revealing the baroque, the marble inlays, and miles of gold leaf.

The last stage involved refurbishing the once dull Park Avenue lobby, creating a cocktail terrace under gigantic chandeliers, and installing a lady harpist as well as a team of dignified waitresses dressed in vaguely Grecian smocks, as for a classical play at some Ivy League college.

To my surprise the new Waldorf-Astoria, surely the best hotel in the Hilton chain, provided precisely the kind of extravagant excellence I thought to find on QE2. But it soon emerged that Cunard's fleet and the Waldorf-Astoria, projected by the family of Alan Whicker, lavishly playing in an altogether different league. Wary readers may already have noted that ominous adman's phrase "as little as," behind which lurks QE2's astonishingly complex internal

hierarchy. The prices are based on sharing an inside twin-bed "L" grade cabin with shower and toilet in "Transatlantic" class. But there is a great variety of cabins, with supplements ranging from £65 to £255, going on ever upwards until you reach the Queen's class state rooms where, for the first time, you could imagine yourself inhabiting Whicker's World or even Evelyn Waugh's.

The restaurants are graded in parallel with the accommodation, from the Tables of the World via the Columbia, and the Princess Grill, to the ultimate chic of the Queen's Grill. Here (and here only) the caviar flows like Dom Perignon, the menu runs to virtually anything a gourmet might dream up, and the standards are impeccable: you could easily be in a (unusually understated) banqueting suite tucked away somewhere inside the Waldorf.

The rest of QE2 is not like this at all, enormous and varied though the facilities are. A typical day's activities run to a Stage and Screen Quiz (you have to fill in what Diana Dors was actually christened; a bridge lecture; a complimentary Latin American dancing class with world champions Jeffrey and Cheryl Robinson; an (appalling) talk on "How to become a New Yorker"; another, more engaging one from Joan Paul, Social Director, who taught us how to make a variety of beach gar-

ments by tying a pareo; and, of course, the traditional trap-shooting and bingo.

There were also Meet the Stars sessions where you could indulge in nostalgia with Bert Weedon, the immortal guitarist, or hob-nob with Peter Gorden, QE2's resident song-and-dance heart-throb, who in another incarnation used to be a chorus dancer with Shirley Bassey.

Although the logistics of the crossing mean that QE2 has constantly to sail at around her maximum of 30 knots, which gives an impression of driving speed not unlike travelling in a jumbo, the voyage still takes a long time and you find yourself drawn towards unexpected diversions. At noon one day I heard a talk on perming, cleverly billed as "What your hairdresser does behind your back," by the manager of the on-board Steiner beauty salon.

Since they had recently charged me a fraction under £2 for a comb I felt they owed me these insights into the mysteries of their trade.

And then, of course, there are cocktail parties with the Captain, the amiable Keith Stanley, and a variety of other social occasions involving different clothes. What the daily news bulletin called "The Eternal Problem of What to Wear" is solved via delicate suggestion: "This evening may we suggest Formal Wear?" Yes indeed. It's a very run

routine, enabling you to attend an introduction to gaming class (with complimentary chips) before descending to the bowels of the ship to do aerobics with Californians who say (I swear) "This, air, is more than a luxurious elective programme. We teach you to communicate with your bodies and activate your capacity for enjoyment — in depth."

No wonder lovers found themselves attracted by the room lined with IBM personal computers and stocked with well-designed learning programs and manuals. There is also a well-run though tiny library, but life aboard QE2 is not geared to things you do on your own.

Captain Stanley said that because of the rigorous schedule, the transatlantic crossing is far less leisurely and involves more sea days — than any other route in this awesome ship's itinerary. He also insisted, like every other member of the crew, that Whicker's World isn't the emphasis (except in the Queen's Grill) is not on luxury. Instead they create together and jockey group activities of a kind probably most enjoyed if you are travelling with children.

The Concorde flight is the supreme act of getting from here to there, or back. The experience seems more like space travel than conventional subsonic flying and among its miracles you can count the

annihilation of New York-London jet-lag.

It reminds you that flying was once a luxurious adventure — the New York check-in terminal and departure lounge shift you not forward in time, as you might expect, but backwards a couple of decades to an old BOAC first-class lounge, adorned with international phones and places to do quick bits of work. Telex copies of that day's post newspapers, caviar canapés, decent bread and real cheese, Buck's Fizz, proper coffee in cups of china, not styrofoam.

These forgotten antebellum pleasures only give way to future living once the Concorde accelerates into a 200 mph take-off, and the sprint home emphasises another irony of this ultimate trip. The flight back to London was just 30 minutes shorter than it had taken to negotiate the journey's first and (by far) most onerous stage — Waterloo to Southampton on a Sunday afternoon via Southern Region boat-train. Standing up in the corridor, of course, and without as much as a cup of railway tea.

David Leitch's regrets at the shortness of the New York stay would be matched for some of the more expensive packages, e.g. the £1,450 (max) after including five nights at the Waldorf-Astoria. Further details: Cunard, 8 Berkeley Street, London, W1.

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Stephanie Calman visits a centre for holiday cures on the shores of the Dead Sea Salt solution

THERE is a miracle element, it could be said, in cures of healing methods that have an effect, yet are not fully understood. Such is the case with the largely successful treatment of arthritis at Ein Bokek on the Dead Sea in Israel. Doctors at the clinics there believe it is due to the weak sun rays — it is 1,300 feet below sea level — the high salt and mineral content of the lake, and the unusually relaxing air which contains a higher proportion of bromine than elsewhere. But they are unable to pinpoint a chief curing factor.

Victims of the illness who go there, generally for a month, cannot trace the cause of their improvement either. Those I spoke to, three of whom had had difficulty walking off the plane, could only say that their skins were clear, the arthritis had cleared up, and that they felt excellent. A man in his sixties who had arrived three weeks before on crutches boasted that he would out-dance the young people at the hotel discotheque.

However, the International Paralysis Treatment Centre, which runs programmes there, stresses that it makes no claims to cure sufferers for life. Visitors are warned the illness is likely to return, but usually in a weaker form, and possibly only after

a year or two. And they are advised in any case to consult their doctor before booking.

The "rest cure" is based on a four-week stay in a hotel, close to the clinic, with an initial check by a doctor and supervised amounts of sun and sea treatment. Skin softeners and ointments containing Dead Sea minerals are also used.

Near the town of Arad, which claims to have totally unpolluted air, there are hotel clinics offering treatment for asthma. Although Arad itself is on a plateau, the increased atmospheric pressure in the rest of the region means a valuable bonus of oxygen, and humidity is low.

There are spa hotels and natural hot springs along the shores of the Dead Sea, and at Tiberias, the Sea of Galilee. At Newe Zohar, in the south, muscular ailments such as rheumatism and arthritis are treated both with sulphurous water from natural springs and mineral-rich mud from the Dead Sea. The Tiberias Hot Springs Centre is a somewhat bigger concern, where various joint disabilities can be alleviated by hydrotherapy, massage, and sulphur bath immersion.

Whatever the ailment, sufferers would be well advised to see their own doctor before committing themselves to a programme, although hotel clinics and health centres tend to have doctors or nurses on call. Apart from that, they see no strict dividing line between health trips and holidays: enjoyment is part of the cure.

Briefcase:

Health holidays incorporating the International Paralysis Treatment Centre on the Dead Sea, travel, and full or half-board accommodation at the Ganei Shalom Hotel, are organised by V.I.P. Travel of 42 North Audley Street, London W1 (tel. 01-489 4221). To book up the treatment, the company offers regular medical checks and nursing supervision; to back up the holiday, free entry to private beach facilities, and additional excursions to Sodan and Gomorrah. The super-abundance of salt has therapeutic value, some of it being a transmutation of Lot's wife. For the 28-day cure mentioned by our correspondents as the most common length of stay, the price including flights is £120; for 14 days £80.

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cast-down Father Christmas. Television is generally about being yourself, and it is probable that Oliver never acted. When he was not acting, he is not there. He was almost invisible on the Cavett chat show. He only appeared in Oliver to other men's eyes. He took his own life. Melvyn Fragg's biography because he could wear a panama hat and pretend to be a rather dashing country gentleman. When the wind blew it off, I expected him to vanish.

"He is — actor," said Anthony Quayle as you might say a dog. Not a dog. Not a dog. Not a dog. Not a dog. Not a dog.

هكذا من الامم

WEEK-END PEOPLE

Tap, crackle and talk

CONTRARY to popular belief, proficient phone tappers actually clear the line of interference. All the better to hear you, m'dear. So when Patricia Hewitt's home telephone developed a crackle the day after revelations of MI5's extra-curricular eavesdropping, she guessed that her listeners had folded their tents. "I think I'm getting the normal service now," she said with a hint of regret.

I met Neil Kinnock's press secretary on Wednesday in the panelled fastness of the Shadow Cabinet Room, where she announced her intention of taking proceedings against the Government in the European Court of Human Rights and dismissed their nifty Bridgework as pathetically inadequate. "Lord Bridge's report is open to so many interpretations that it's quite meaningless," she said.

Cathy Massiter, the former MI5 employee interviewed on Channel Four's 20:20 Vision, claims that during Patricia Hewitt's 10 years as general secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties, Hewitt and other staff such as Harriet Harman were routinely surveilled and tapped as members of a subversive organisation.

Both women were allegedly put on record as communist sympathisers. Ms Hewitt because of her close personal association with someone who was at the time a member of the Communist Party. She asserts angrily that guilt by association was an excuse rather than the true reason for these intrusions, warranted or otherwise: NCCL was espousing unpopular causes and proving highly embarrassing to governments.

But in the seventies it had been a kind of reception centre for terrorist suspects, il-

legal immigrants, militant trade unionists and radical journalists. Wasn't that enough to make even the Labour Government (whose Home Secretary, Merlyn Rees, has denied all) foam at the mouth?

Yes, but an awful lot of NCCL's work had no political connotations at all. The NCCL is an organisation that in a sense exists to be unpopular. It says everybody is entitled to a fair trial and that includes people accused of the most horrific terrorist crimes. The more revolting the crime, the more the safeguards of natural justice are essential. But NCCL has never had a specific policy position.

She expects the NCCL and other aggrieved parties, including herself, to present a co-ordinated package of cases to the European Court and to call Cathy Massiter as a key witness. For corroboration they have a copy of a memorandum written several years ago by a MI5 legal adviser which made clear that taps were being kept on lawyers connected with NCCL.

Her threat is not idle. Although she has been out of the limelight since the banana-skin-drawn patch of her fist few weeks ago, Neil Kinnock's mind, it is clear she has lost none of the tenacity which propelled NCCL down a trail of formidable victories, some in the European Court. The ruling on bugging in the Isle of Man paved the way for a test case strategy pioneered largely by NCCL, of which her husband is now chairman.

Her other advances ("There are never once-and-for-all victories in civil liberties") included the right of British women to be joined here by foreign husbands.

the accused's right to remain silent in court, and the right to a hearing of complaints against the police irrespective of the DPP's reluctance to pursue them.

She is suing as a victim, prepared to go the likely distance of five years. She is encouraged by the European Court's ruling several years ago on a West German case. "They said telephone tapping was a legitimate weapon for states to use in very limited circumstances, like extremely serious crimes, when there was no other way of getting the evidence. Indeed, they went on to say that there were circumstances in which the victim should be told about it afterwards."

"You have to have an independent mechanism since you cannot trust any government, however committed, with those powers. West Germany has a system which combines judicial and parliamentary scrutiny of telephone taps—a much tougher system than this government is proposing with the rather pathetic little interception bill."

The suspicion that Labour ministers authorised taps on her phone, which she maintains is still unaltered by Lord Bridge's report, could prove her point. But isn't she, a poetess-turned-game-keeper-in-waiting, in danger of losing her aim?

NCCL, she said, had possessed a stopping power which had been directed vigorously at, among other targets, the 1974 Labour government's zealous definition of subversion. "But we also encouraged and pushed them in the direction of doing things like the Sex Discrimination Bill, in which I was involved, and trying to get a Freedom of Information Bill.



HEWITT—Using political power for political change. Picture by E. Hamilton West

"Therefore it seems to be absolutely valid for a civil liberties campaigner to want to work on the other side of the fence. Ultimately the purpose is the same—to try and use political power for political change."

She had not worked with Kinnock before her appointment, although he campaigned for her during a hard-fought bid to win Leicester East—doomed she

believes by the swing-against-Labour and a media campaign which outlasted the election. "It was convenient for people who wanted to get at me personally to suggest that I had been handed a safe seat on a plate and carelessly thrown it away, when in fact the reverse was the truth."

Her first week in Kinnock's office was marked by accounts of a Medusa-like

reputation for turning political reporters to stone. And there was her reported withdrawal of Kinnock from Weekend World because he was not prepared. She says he never gave a firm commitment to appear. "He had said everything that needed to be said in Conference that week. Weekend World understood perfectly."

She attributes the touchiness of her early relations

with the press to their different perspectives. "I am a campaigner and that was one of the reasons why Neil Kinnock wanted to appoint me. But it made it more difficult than I say. I had been a political journalist who had simply crossed the fence. Once we'd got that over I think we settled down quite well. I certainly don't get complaints, indeed quite the reverse."

Bungle in the jungle

"STEP-UP on that too-shaped rock," said the film director to the actress in a long-ago spoof of King Kong. "Now get on that foot-shaped rock. Fine. See if you can reach that knee-shaped rock." It was, of course, Kong.

There is a similar sensation of close focus pulling back to a monster of awesome amplitude in Catherine Cusack's remarkable book in The Rainforest, published next week.

Unlike the band of eco-freaks whose bleatings consume tons of paper to little avail, in 1982 she Catherines Cusack's remarkable book in The Rainforest, published next week.

In the heart of the Amazon she stumbled across Tucuri, an instant city of 32,000 serving Brazil's largest dam, Barbados, Grenada and Martinique could fit into its reservoir with room to spare. One of the dam's biggest customers will be an electric railway which is in turn part of the biggest enterprise ever attempted in the Amazon, the Carajas iron ore project. But this is just a small part of a more grandiose scheme, a 22 billion development covering an area of forest the size of Britain and France combined.

Cauffield, an American who came to Britain in 1976, quickly won acceptance among the creators of these pipe dreams. She kept her opinions to herself.

Development schemes, she found, have a life of their own. "It's as if I say 'I will cut off your arm' and you are only allowed to say 'Well, cut it off at the elbow'."

The one consolation was that might be termed the rock-up factor. Hydroelectric schemes, invariably rushed, produce acidic water which kills fish, gases people and rots turbines. She believes that planners surveying these mistakes are having second thoughts.

"I am depressed in the sense that I don't think we can stop the destruction, but I think it will be possible to slow down the rate so we know something about rain forests."

Her jungle-bashing was moderately sedate. Travelers' tales are grossly exaggerated, she believes. However this one is eloquent enough. In Brazil she stood gazing at a beautiful stretch of river, when an engineer turned to her with the smile: "We're going to save all this for prosperity," he said. "We're going to cover it up with water so that no one can disturb it."

In The Rainforest is published by Hutchinson on Monday, £10.95.

Shagan a son gout



SHAGAN—To the edge of extinction

"I AM not in the hope business," Steve Shagan sadly observed. Hope suffers equally. He was holed up in a Mayfair hotel to talk about his latest book, but this thought kept returning to the malodorous human condition and his failure to stop the current screenwriters' strike in America.

Shagan (58) was one of three board directors of the Writers' Guild of America West to vote against the strike, aimed at securing a larger cut from the sale of the film castles. Since more than three-quarters of the Guild members work in television and not films, he sees the gesture as heartily extravagant. One day, he thinks, the film studio will have to oblige people to attend cinemas by withholding their cashes.

His melancholia found a perfect expression in Jack Lemmon's performance in the adaptation of his first novel, Save The Tiger.

"There was a lot of me in that character. It was about waking up with one's life half lived, to find I didn't understand Vietnam. Seeing those steel coils coming home every night in San Francisco made me angry."

The film brought him instant fame but the Oscar race had him retreating to Spain. Until then he had been a film printer and stagehand, rising to the heights of producing a far-fetched television series, shot into the ratings when he was asked to write the script. "I was not a writer," he protested. "You are now," he was told.

Da Spain he wrote City Of Angels, an over-the-top American teeny-bop comedy which was adapted as Hustle, starring Burt Reynolds and Catherine Deneuve. The Formula and The Circle followed into the bestseller lists.

He was at the Dorchester one day, supposedly pointing out a screenplay for Sir Lew Grade, when he read an article whose import was calculated to make his patron's cigar explode. An Italian archaeological team had been expelled from Syria, apparently after discovering evidence that the country had been previously occupied by Hebrew tribes.

The Ebla tablets inscribed in 3000 BC, prophesied that Moses would be severely punished for withholding the final word of God. From that point Shagan began to extrapolate The Discovery, a more wondrous archaeological thriller than Agatha Christie ever dreamed of. "In a thriller one has a chance to put forward one's own fears of where we are now as a species, at the very edge of extinction," he said. "It's a choice between Fat Boy and the fatburger at McDonalds."

Maybe, he concedes grudgingly, some protoplasm will crawl out of the lake. He is leaving the uplift to Billy Graham.

The Discovery is published by Sidgwick & Jackson, £9.95.

THE GUARDIAN 1960

MARCH 9: The action of some Labour MPs who abstained from voting for an official Labour amendment on defence in the Commons on March 1 was described as "mutiny with a capital M" by the Home Secretary, Mr R. A. Butler, last night.

The Labour "Tower of Babel" now presented a sorry spectacle. At the general election it had posed as a united party, but this pretence of unity collapsed immediately afterwards.

"On one side there are the hidebound Socialist reactionaries who want to stick to nationalism through thick and thin. On the other there are the Socialist 'reformers' who want to

take the 'sin' out of Socialism. In other words, they want to make an honest woman out of Karl Marx. Until this quarrel is sorted out no one can guess what the Labour Party will do about the main plank in its economic policy, namely nationalisation. And indeed there are some Socialists who are clearly beginning to think that their present quarrels can only end in the complete break-up of their party."

MARCH 10: Another weekly review will go out of existence if, as is highly probable, Time and Tide stops publication after next week's issue. Mr Leonard Skervington, the paint manufacturer, who has been chairman and editor-in-chief for a year and a half since he took over after Lady Rhonda's death, announced this today (March 9) "with a heavy heart." Though the paper has led a precarious existence for several years, Mr

Skervington explained that he had been able by cutting costs to reduce losses by about four fifths. But advertising revenue has gone down since last year, and hopes of outside financial help have not been fulfilled.

Mr Skervington, unlike Lady Rhonda, will not appeal to readers for help because he does not believe that this alone would be enough. He has all along made it clear that he could not himself undertake to carry on indefinitely; today's March 9 news comes as no great surprise.

Mr Skervington and Lady Rhonda's trustees are looking into the chances of protecting the paper's title for the future. It is certainly a good title.

MARCH 11: Prince Philip must have expected to receive a buffet when he agreed to become a Companion of the Grand Order of Water Rats, for the officers, mostly comedians and circus people, could not let the occasion pass without exercising their talents. Bud Flanagan, Tommy Trinder, and Ted Ray were there on the top of their uninhibited, irreverent form. . . . Prince Philip gave almost as good as he got, but as he had just received a cheque from the Order for a £1,500 in aid of the London Federation of Boys' Clubs he had something more serious to say.

Seeing no reason why he should not get into the act himself, Lady Althorpe had had her say and there had been several reports on youth and education, he suggested that when boys and girls reached the age of 15 to 16 they should be treated more like adult human beings and given an active part to play in adult things. Why, he asked, should not young people be trained to provide beach patrols in the holiday seasons, maintain and repair rescue parties, forest fire pickets, and be asked to help the

sick, the old, and the infirm? The whole of the youth service, he said, should be part of the general system of education preparing the young for adult life.

MARCH 12: It is difficult to resist gazing at South Korea's doughty President Rhee, with a reluctant admiration. Not often do one's political opponents die off within days of the poll, and once again the 86-year-old veteran of the anti-Communist game will have a walk-over to become President of the Republic of Korea for the fourth time on Tuesday next week (March 15).

The fact that 360,000 Koreans turned out at the burial of Dr Chough Pyung Ok, the Opposition candidate and Democratic party leader, who died in Washington after an abdominal operation, to pay their last respects, is a crude of the kind that Dr Rhee is used to bearing. . . .

The safe danger man

IN THE film Eagle's Wing, Sam Waterston played a quirky Red Indian who challenged Martin Sheen for a beautiful sed. It was an interesting encounter by two character actors who were both tipped for superstardom. Both had done work of distinction and each was to appear in a prestigious British TV series. Sheen in Kennedy, Waterston in Oppenheimer.

Sheen's big chance was starring in Apocalypse Now, for which he received an Oscar nomination but not the coveted statuette. Now Waterston is in the running for an Oscar late this month for his performance as U.S. American journalist Sydney Schanberg in The Killing Fields.

This week on the morning after the BAFTA Awards in which he was pitted against and lost to his co-star, Dr Fing S. Ngor, as best film actor, he seemed faintly bemused by an award system that had placed four actresses from Jewel in the Crown in direct competition with each other.

"It's a funny process," he said. "You know it doesn't really matter, but when you put on the tuxedo and the bulbs flash, you have voted with your feet. By that time you want to win. It's like a race horse. No sane person would put themselves through that."

Waterston, 44, is of English descent, which he thinks may account for his participation in numerous British projects, including The Great Gatsby, The Glass Menagerie, Eagle's Wing, Capricorn One and Hopscotch. His father, a teacher and amateur director, emigrated to the States during the Depression.

His success as Nick Carraway, the ironic narrator in The Great Gatsby, followed years in the New York theatre. When people mention his "fine body of work" he is reminded of Henry Fonda's remark on a chat show they shared: Who gave you the list of my credits?

"It's the opposite of what Antony says in Julius Caesar—the evil that men do lives after them. Maybe the good stuff rises to the surface."

He believes in placing himself entirely in the hands of directors. Working with Roland Joffe in his first stab at film direction was a pleasure, he says. "You would not have been able to tell that it was new ground for him. The thing you hope for is that you will feel absolutely secure and that there's a big safety net underneath. I enjoyed the element of safe danger."

He was reluctant to comment on the political implications of The Killing Fields, wondering whether works of art have political consequences. This seemed a bit of a cop-out from someone who marched against the Vietnam War, but he says he does not believe in using his position as a platform. Oscar or no, the film has secured his near future. "For the first time in my life I know what I am going to do next, next, and maybe even next, next."

WATERSTON—Save of what's coming next. Picture by Frank Martin



STEWART—Kazooing around at 20,000 feet

Ho, hmmm . . .

THIS piece should be read aloud while humming through a sheet of Brocco folded over a comb.

If Barbara Stewart has her way Britain will be set palpitating when her book comes out. She is a kazooist, in fact the emeritus professor of Kazoology at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and she hitch-hiked to London recently to busk how to Kazoo to an English publisher. Virginia Atlantic gave her a round trip to teach unsuspecting passengers the art of embouchure, or how to get your mouth round a kazoo, and concert-style and wah-wah kazoomanship.

Thus there is now a risk of being caught captive at 20,000 feet while hostesses demonstrate how to hum through the membrane of a miniature submarine while putting on a life jacket and oxygen mask.

Ms Stewart is a kazooist as well as a kazoist. "I taught them lifetime skills," she says, referring to the passengers and not the hostesses, whom she considers have "trampling performance" as part of their job description.

The kazoo, she explains, is a serious instrument, a member of the membranophones

family, not to be confused with Jew's harps, whoopee cushions, enunch flutes, humzooks, chain saws, or killer bees. It is a million, an instrument which modifies or disguises vocal sounds, but by-and-large it has lost the qualities of intimidation and bringing voices from the dead attributed to its African ancestor milililon. The dictionaries say it is American, invented in the 1940s by Alabama West, an American black, and Thaddeus Von Clegg, a clock-maker. A likely tale.

For marching bands or symphonic kazooing, performed by Ms Stewart's orchestra Kazoophony, the instrument is disguised as trumpets and French horns, clarinets and slide trombones. There is even Mickey Mouse model. Before Mickey or Ms Stewart were born, though, the Tommy Tally bands of the West Riding used milililons for their raucous burlesques, but that's an obscure branch of kazoology which has not reached venerable researchers at the Eastman School.

People is written by Stuart Wavell

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Bill Beaumont, former England rugby football captain, 37; Michael Broca, warden, Nuffield College, Oxford, 63; Andre Courreges, couturier, 62; John Howard Davies, BBC television head of comedy and light entertainment, 46; Bobby Fischer, former world chess champion, 42; Dr Thomas Johnson, principal, Hertford College, Oxford, 53; writers, critics, Peter Quennell and Rex Warner, both 80.

TOMORROW: Prince Edward, 21; Lady Marcia Falkender, columnist, former prime ministerial assistant to Lord Wilson, 51; Lord Wilson, 51; Sir Trevor, pianist, 51; Charles Groves, conductor, 70; Sir Michael Havers, attorney general, 62.

MONDAY: Roy Close, director general, British Institute of Management, 65; Sir Kenneth Dover, president, Corpus Christi, Oxford, 63; John Fawcett, Bishop of Hereford, 63; D. J. Enright, poet, critic, anthologist, 63; David Gentleman, graphic designer, 63; Raymond Jackson, cartoonist, 58; Nigel Lawson, chancellor of the exchequer, 58; Sir Fitzroy Maclean, author, soldier, diplomat, traveller,

74; Rupert Murdoch, media tycoon, 54; Lord (Harold) Wilson of Rievaulx, 68.

TUESDAY: performers Gordon Macrae, 64, Liz Minnelli, 38, Max Wall, 77, and George Withers, 68; Edward Albee, playwright, 57; Ronald Allen, keeper, modern collectibles, leader, the Amadeus Quartet, 62.

WEDNESDAY: Terence Brady, novelist, actor, 42; Joe Foweraker, former British and European heavyweight boxing champion, 35; Sir Terence Burns, chief economic adviser to the treasury and head of the Government Economic Service, 41.

THURSDAY: actors: Michael Caine, 52, John McCallum (also producer), 67, Bill Owen, 70, and Rita Tushingham, 43; Pam Ayres, poet, 38; Jasper Carrott, comedian, 40; Alan Bance, chairman, Financial Times, 68; Quincey Jones, music arranger, band leader, 52; Lord (Dick) Marsh, chairman, TV-am, and of the Newspaper Publishers' Association, 57; Tessa Sanderson, javelin thrower, 29; John Wake, novelist, critic, poet, 60.

FRIDAY: David Altan, Librarian/Alliance MP, 94; Alex Bernstein, chairman, Granada Group, 49; Ky Cooder, folk, blues guitarist, 38.

So, how do you stop saving lives?

Guy's Hospital is a large organisation and every organisation has to have a budget. Right? And you don't have to live in a Grantham grocer's shop (though it obviously helps) to know that, give or take a bit here or there, you can only spend as much as you earn. Okay? And a public body like a health authority employs financial administrators to get the sums right. Agreed? And in the public sector you mostly know what your income is going to be in advance because you aren't so vulnerable to market forces. Follow? So, unless there's a bit of funny business somewhere along the line, a health authority or a hospital (or indeed a local authority, but that isn't our subject today) ought to be capable of getting through to the end of the financial year with the books more or less balanced, and certainly without any major midyear panic about closures or cuts. Which gets us to the question: What on earth has been going on at Guy's?

Most of the attention here in the past week has focused on the heart unit. This unit was said to face a four month closure unless an extra £272,000 could be found to keep it running at its current rate. That danger has now passed, for the moment, thanks to the attentive Daily Telegraph reading habits of Mr John James, the millionaire philanthropist, who found himself with a bit to spare while on holiday in Florida. But it isn't just the heart unit that has run out of money. The kidney unit has been treating too many people; it has overspent by around £500,000. Intensive care for premature babies is also over-budget. Naturally, if you juxtapose things like that, the inevitable reaction is to rubbish the accountancy mentality. How can you possibly put a price on a new born baby's fight for survival, the life-saving kidney dialysis treatment or heart by-pass operation? Unanswerable questions, of course. And yet, in fact, the entire health service, and hospitals in particular, have to make cost/treatment judgments all the time. Such judgments (though they are sometimes obscured) are inescapably part of a whole range of decisions about investment (shall we spend more on kidney dialysis or on premature baby units?), about distribution of scarce resources (do they need more dialysis in Lancashire or London?) and indeed in decisions about whom to treat (as the Oxford dialysis case in January illustrated).

So, given that such dilemmas are inherent to some degree, and given also that hospitals have to work within budgets, Guy's looks more than a little shambolic. It is tempting to be impatient with doctors who self-indulgently take not a blind bit of notice of budgetary constraints. And it is equally hard not to feel some sympathy for administrators, who are an easy target on occasions like this. Yet this situation at Guy's is not the administrators' fault, for all that they seem to have let it creep up on them unawares. And nor is it the doctors' fault, however maddening some of their behaviour may have been. The crisis at Guy's is essentially a matter of government enforced cutbacks. Guy's is caught between the Government, which is determined to disperse hospital spending away from central London towards other parts of the South-east Thames region, and the patients, who keep on having heart attacks and kidney failure and so add to the waiting lists for the kinds of scarce specialist treatments which Guy's can provide. And it is the Government which is compelling Guy's to amputate £10 million from its budget during the next decade, not the patients.

In the short run, Mr James's generosity has got everyone out of a hole. But his beneficence is not a longterm solution to an issue which, though it has surfaced at Guy's, is a general problem for many health authorities. There are not, alas, enough rich and kindly old gentlemen around in Florida or elsewhere to go on patching up the Government's cuts indefinitely. It comes down, eventually, to old-fashioned, unsophisticated simple decisions of principle. Do you spend money on hospitals and health or do you spend it on Trident and the Falklands? Mr James's money is gratefully received, but it is the Chancellor who ought to be footing the bill.

Fats in the political fire

It is easy to scoff at the Labour Party's latest contribution to informed political debate, a discussion paper with the not altogether mouth-watering title of "Food Policy — a priority for Labour." We live in a world gripped by war and famine, then up pops Her Majesty's loyal opposition with a pamphlet exhorting our eating habits and demanding action to change them. Could it be that Labour wants to go back to its finest hours of the postwar Attlee government by resurrecting the ascetically emaciated figure of Sir Stafford Cripps?

Not at all says the lean and hungry-looking Dr Jeremy Bray, the party's science spokesman, in presenting the paper. "We are seeking to bring food policy and the effect of diet on health to the forefront of political debate and action. The pamphlet itself insists: 'We must emphasise that, in attempting to set out a new policy for food, the Labour Party is not setting out to dictate what people eat.' For this relief much thanks. Nevertheless it does seem a new departure for a major political party to try to make an issue out of what we eat. Conspiracy theorists, of whom there is no shortage in party ranks, may see in it a veiled attempt to entice the muesli-gulping, salt-schewing element in the SDP back into the fold at a stroke.

There may be a distinct flavour of didacticism in this dietary document but overall it is a rare combination of the indisputable sensible and the politically opportune. It is easy to scoff, but it is just as easy to scoff yourself to death on the British national diet, which has a claim to be one of the least healthy in the developed world. Ten years ago such a paper would have looked decidedly eccentric but since then a bandwagon has begun to roll which now looks unstoppable, even if it still has a long way to go. One Briton in three may be overweight, but the consumption of some of the most obviously dubious foods is falling. Supermarket chains find it wise, and doubtless profitable, to display new ranges of "natural" foods alongside the 75 per cent of their edible wares which are processed and full of questionable additives. Sales of simpler, healthier foods rise and awareness of the dangers of the misnamed "diseases of affluence" (which hit the poor much harder than the well-off) inexorably spreads. In advocating public education and a shift of EEC subsidies away from dairy produce the Labour paper is very much on the right lines. This is preventative medicine in its purest form: one long range solution of the National Health Service. And whilst the simple truths about smoking may now be accepted, the equally simple truths about fats and heart disease remain ephermerally absorbed. One way of getting facts across is to have a good old political row about them. Would Mr Nigel Lawson, to take one weighty example, consider a pamphlet of rebuttal? Conservatives for Cholesterol?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dilemmas MI5 creates for the policeman

Sir,—With regard to Granada's chilling programme about the unpleasant death of Hilda Murrell, one can smile with Hugh Hebert (Arts Guardian, March 5) at the idiot-policeman that Mr Drew was made to appear.

If, however, Mr Drew did know that MI5—or private investigators acting for it—were at work in this case, what else could he do or say in front of the cameras?

To admit to his knowledge would be to breach top-secret confidentiality and render himself—like Clive Ponting and Sarah Tisdall—liable to an Official Secrets prosecution as an enemy of the state (ie of the government of the day). Not to pursue the matter directly with any authority which he knew to be responsible, and not to hand the culprit over to prosecution would put him in a flagrant breach of his oath as a policeman to act without fear or favour in defence of citizens.

Are there no guidelines given to chief constables on how to solve this conflict of loyalties? (Apart, of course,

from Sir Richard Armstrong's helpful instruction to keep referring the matter to higher and higher superiors—even up to the PM herself who is ultimately responsible for MI5 and would no doubt welcome with open arms such publicity for her secret police).

Do chief constables have operational authority to challenge and bring in just one secret service operator in their area if they bungle their burglaries? Is a crime committed in pursuance of secret surveillance answerable at law? If so, who would be the prosecutor? If it would be a private prosecution, what police facilities are likely to be made available. Who has any authority to answer these questions?

Just in case the "dirty tricks" department of MI5 thinks it has, and is accordingly contemplating phone-tapping or mail-tampering or anything worse—in answer to my questions, I gladly append my name and address, relying on your unwavering support (of our civil liberties) to give the maximum publicity to any evidence that MI5 may stu-

pidly leave around for me to use.

Donald P. Maw, Mansfield.

Sir,—Your article (Agenda Extra, March 1) on the 20/20 Vision programme on phone-tapping reminds me of the time in the early 1960s when I was asked to become a member of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants Committee at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment.

A little while later strange noises and silences began to interfere with my phone calls at home. Then a fellow committee member, a well-respected pillar of the estab-

lishment, expressed his surprise to me one day that, since he had joined the committee, he believed his phone had been tapped.

For many years after that, we compared notes occasionally and wondered at the budget of an organisation which could waste money when all around were cutting down. My family adopted the kind of habit of saying a word to the tappers in many of their conversations.

About three years ago Harriet Harman rang me to seek my comments as a member of the Thames Valley Police Authority on some aspects of the policing of Greenham Common. After 20 minutes' talk she asked about the use of computers by the police, and I gave her the telephone number of a councillor in Oxfordshire who was knowledgeable on that subject.

But when we tried to make other calls that evening the line was open, emitting odd clicks from time to time. My wife analysed the situation immediately: when the system had to deal with two tapped lines at once, it had a nervous breakdown.

The local telephone engineer who came the next morning was baffled. But while he was scratching his head, another man arrived in a plain vehicle, fiddled with the phone briefly until it worked, and disappeared, leaving the first engineer exclaiming: "I've never seen him before."

The following week I told the Oxford councillor of the odd event, he replied that two other people had told him similar stories that week.

I'm glad I don't live in Poland.—Yours, (Cllr) Trevor Brown, Royal County of Berkshire.

Sir,—I am disturbed to read (Out of Court, March

4) that the Interception of Communications Bill will not empower the tribunal of lawyers to award compensation where lawfully obtained information has been put to improper use.

The whole issue of compensation for state surveillance is clearly inadequately dealt with in the Bill. It is the case in some legal systems, we were to regard personality as analogous to material property and therefore deserving of the same protection, we would logically provide at least for a presumption that compensation should be provided for state interference with the personality.

Just as expropriation of property without compensation is generally regarded as unlawful—Article 14 of the West German Basic Law—so "expropriation" of the odd event, he replied that two other people had told him similar stories that week.

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Just as expropriation of property without compensation is generally regarded as unlawful—Article 14 of the West German Basic Law—so "expropriation" of the odd event, he replied that two other people had told him similar stories that week.

I'm glad I don't live in Poland.—Yours, (Cllr) Trevor Brown, Royal County of Berkshire.

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Locals in the firing line

Sir,—Those who have the misfortune to live near nuclear bases, like your Moleworth correspondent Mrs Ford (Letters, March 8) must recognise that the peace movement is not now confined to well-behaved pacifists.

People of all sorts in our country are concerned about the danger of nuclear war, and they all have the democratic right to protest. While we regret the nuisance which large-scale protest causes and the damage which may be done by a minority of protesters this is quite a different matter compared with the total destruction which we are trying to prevent.

Moleworth is now a primary target — which cannot be a pleasant thought for its peaceful residents. — Yours, Stephen Allott, 12 Jesus Lane, Cambridge.

Sir,—I wonder what colour my identity pass will be? I am both a local villager and a peace protester. Two weeks ago I was refused a drink in a local pub after giving the "wrong" answer to the question: "Do you support CND?"

We already have a pass system on the roads near USAF Alconbury: at times of demonstrations, you need an American car or an American ID card. — Yours faithfully, Christine Saltmarsh, 18 West Close, Alconbury Weston, Cambs.

Sir,—How can it be simultaneously true that our nuclear weapons are necessary to defend our freedom and that our freedoms must be progressively eroded in order to defend our nuclear weapons? — Yours, Mike Garner, 4 Beaufort Place, Fenchurch, Bristol.

Sir,—I intend to go to Moleworth on Easter Monday to meet my friends and colleagues to whose support I am pledged and whose consistent witness to the Christian faith I deeply admire. I have written to the chief constable of Cambridgeshire to ask for police protection from harassment in making a journey which is my legal right and a moral obligation for me.

I shall be happy to write to you again after the event, to let you know what takes place on that day.—Yours sincerely, (Rev) MacDonald Smith, Clergy Against Nuclear Arms, Evesham, Worcestershire.

Sir,—The proposed bylaw to the Military Lands Act, 1982, appears to be somewhat elusive.

The Act states that bylaws may be made, but that the secretary of state shall cause the proposed bylaws to be published in such a manner as appears to him necessary to make them known to all persons in the locality; and that copies must be available to any persons who desire to obtain the same.

When I phoned the Ministry of Defence on March 1, its spokesman knew nothing about this bylaw and told me to write to my MP. I have since discovered that the proposed bylaw was published in the February 26, and is apparently displayed at police stations in Huntingdon and Newbury, and two other sites in Upper Merford and Cambridge.

Do all the residents of the above towns frequently drop in to their local police station for a chat, or do we assume that they have to be arrested in order to find out what laws they may inadvertently break? — Yours sincerely, Linda Williams, Prospect House, Skipton, N Yorkshires.

Weekend Money letters—page 25

Islands confederation with a difference

Sir,—Your proposal (Leader, March 2) that a confederation of the islands of Ireland and Great Britain would offer a solution to the peace problem is a sensible one, but not put in those terms.

The New Ireland Forum proposed joint authority as one of three possible solutions to the problem. If the necessity of maintaining Ireland's neutrality could be met, this solution would be a far better one. As the Irish situation revolves around definitions and law, it is important to note the differences between a confederation of Britain and Ireland and joint authority.

Joint authority could allow dual citizenship, joint responsibility, and could overcome the problems of dual identity. But confederation implies the imposition of British identity on Ireland

and endangers the sovereignty of the Republic in a way which joint authority need not do.

You rightly point out the nature of the changes in the nature of a so-called reunification of Ireland. However, given the actions of Fianna Fail on the recent elections in the Dail, and the likelihood of some changes in the nature of Irish politics as Mr Desmond O'Malley considers his position, this may decrease in relevance.

What is perhaps disturbing is the way that Fianna Fail's position and that of some left-wingers in the Labour and Liberal parties gives a legitimacy to the sort of horrible murder we saw last week.

Conservative economic policies and their attitude to issues like the R-blocks have revitalised the fascist Sinn Féin movement, but this is no reason for others to offer them the comfort of support.

article (February 25) which pointed out that the human condition in this century has seen a number of improvements and isn't just a hopeless picture of stagnation and disaster.

Having lived in Manchester's Moss Side and for over a decade in Liverpool's Toxteth, I am quite aware, as the article made plain, that there is plenty still to achieve. Unfortunately, the gap between rich and poor is still a reproach to us all, but as Mr Spicer agrees, they weren't the good old days and I would stand by my claim that the absolute condition of the poor was worse at the end of the 19th century.

However, there is one apology I would make and that concerns the article's title. The piece I wrote had the subtitle "a praise of the Guardian altered its title to 'Why we've never had it so good' — an assertion as embarrassing to me as it is annoying to Mr Spicer.

(Prof) Tony Eccles, London Business School.

Sir,—I'm sorry that Robert Spicer (Letters, February 27) took against my Agenda

Whitehall's cold shoulder

Everyone at the Government Recruitment Office seems to be registered deaf.

Jumping the gun on embryos

Sir,—Enoch Powell's Private Member's Bill banning experiments on embryos is being forced through its Commons stage at a speed which allows no time for calm deliberation. It shows callous indifference to the needs of the growing numbers of people unable to have children now at least one in seven couples in Britain. It will seriously damage their future chance of conceiving and bearing their own children.

The Bill defines an embryo as a child, which at the very least is open to debate. If this were the case, the contraceptive IUD would constitute abortion. The Bill gives power over the granting of life to the Secretary of State, since he has to give or withhold permission for implantation in a named woman.

It contradicts its own logic by demanding the disposal of embryos which remain unused. In addition, it imposes such a rigid timescale upon women seeking embryo implantation that it will make the medical process uncomfortable and distressing.

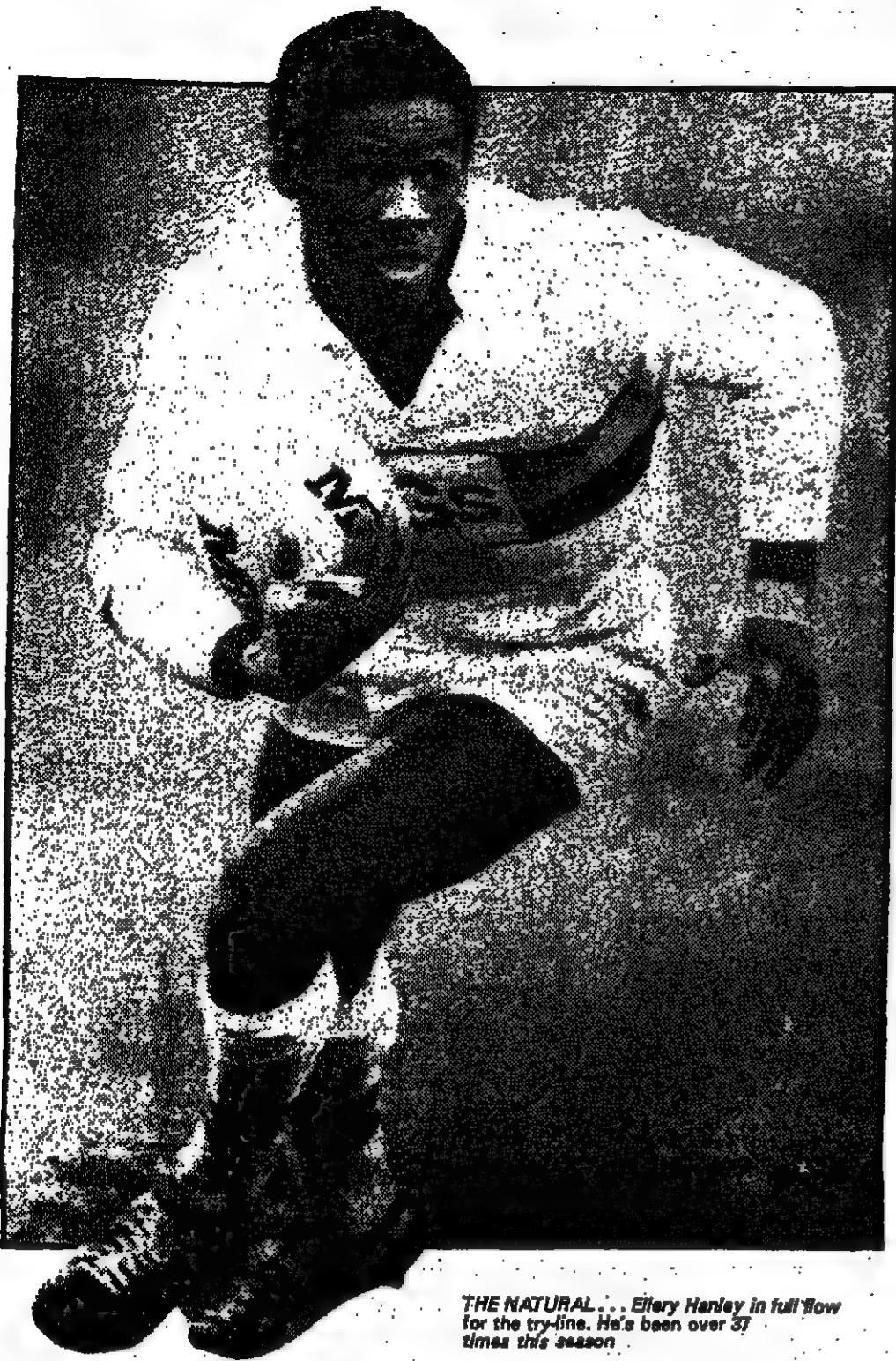
Essentially the Bill is a cruel measure more dedicated to holding back the frontiers of science on the grounds of uninformed "individual conscience" than a commitment to overcoming the terrible tragedy of human sterility.

Warwick Committee's recommendations were at least well considered, dealing calmly with a subject

WEEKEND

SPORT

Britain's Northern light



THE NATURAL... Ellery Hanley in full flow for the try-line. He's been over 57 times this season

Aussies here, Kiwis there — but Rugby League's hottest property is young, gifted and British. Phil Shaw finds Ellery Hanley pondering Wigan and Wembley

ELLERY HANLEY is a natural. You name it, he plays it. He even won a celebrity table-football tournament recently. Like Ian Rush or Viv Richards, he makes pusses dance in his chosen field — except that Rugby League chose him.

The player who has put behind him a troublesome off-the-pitch reputation — to leave the big-name Australians trailing in the try-scorers' chart — was press-ganged into the game. As the 14-year-old son of West Indian parents, he was in Leeds in the Fifties by Enoch Powell et al (Mum was a nurse), he was set on soccer.

A teacher ordered him to do rugby to make up the numbers. "I'd never played before," he remembers. "I said 'I'm not playing,' he said 'you'll get the slipper,' so I agreed. I found I had a natural ability. I got the ball, ran with it, and kept falling over the line." Just like that.

Now 5ft 11in, 13 stone and three weeks from his 24th birthday, Hanley's speed, strength, courage and scoring instinct have taken him over the try-line 37 times already this season — 10 more than his closest challenger. That tally includes six hat-tricks, among them a couple of four-try feasts.

He has at least 12 matches to get the 13 tries he needs, to become the first to 50 since Billy Boston in 1962, a target that carries £5,000 sponsors' swag. Oh, and he kicks goals, 12 of them in one First Division match.

The figures are remarkable when you consider that his club, Bradford Northern, are having a mid-table season under a coach, Peter Fox, whose alleged over-emphasis

on defence is partly responsible for the directors' decision to replace him this summer.

That's where it could get interesting: Fox's side are just two wins from the Challenge Cup final — with a home quarter-final against Wigan to come tomorrow. Hanley has yet to visit Wembley, even as a spectator. He'd never been to Australia before last year's Great Britain tour, but that's where the seeds of his current success were sown.

He prefers to play stand-off. Down Under, he was picked at centre initially, and for the first Test in Sydney he was thrown in on the left wing. "It was the first time I'd played wing, which isn't as easy as people

think," he says. "I felt let down that Frank Myler (then GB coach) didn't take me to one side and explain."

Hanley swallowed his resentment, adapted, and became one of the handful of "Poms" rated international class by their hosts. Against the likes of Meninga and Grothe, Kenny and Lewis — arguably the hardest players in any sport anywhere — he shattered the lingering, laughable myth of the black player's lack of "bottle."

Success in Australia, where he may return to play in the close-season, also seems to have instilled in Hanley a new maturity. Not long after touching down on his Bradford debut in 1978, he was detained at Her Majesty's pleasure. He did not make his second appearance until 1981.

Now the rehabilitation ap-

pears complete. Myler's successor, Maurice Bamford, calls him "world-class." Carnegie College in Leeds, who have put dozens of international players through rigorous tests down the years, have statistics to prove that Hanley is the fittest. A League official calls him "the model pro." And this week his club chairman described him as the greatest player he'd seen in 35 years of watching the game.

Hanley modestly explains that the tour has improved his tactical awareness, making him a better team man. It has also helped develop his speciality, the try from long range. On the evidence of an inspired display capped by two thrilling tries against France last week, his name can be pencilled in now to face the next Kiwi and Kangaroo invaders.

He's no saint, of course, and is as open about his passion for discos as he is determined not to squander his talents. He lives in the community which pays his wages, an up-and-under from the club's Odsal Stadium. "The people have been great," smiles Hanley. "When I have a bad game they say 'how come you didn't play today?'"

The Northern programme doing calls him Mr Magic and Hanley is desperate to work a Cup vanishing trick on Wigan tomorrow. "I've got to get to some finals. I look in my cabinet upstairs and I don't have any winners' medals."

The visitors, with 12 consecutive victories behind them, start favourites. But Bradford remain the only team to win at Wigan, 9-2 last September. Ellery Hanley scored eight points that day... naturally.



DRAMA AWARD: Natalia Bestemianova and Andrei Bukin's passionate Carmen routine earned them two maximum 6.0s

Sandra Stevenson reports from Tokyo on the World Ice Dance Championship

Soviets win golden spurs in fiery style

ICE SKATING

NATALIA BESTEMIANOVA and Andrei Bukin, runners up to Jayne Torvill and Chris Dean in the World Championships since 1982, finally took over their mantle as ice dance champions in Tokyo yesterday, repeating the fiery, flamboyant Carmen routine which won them their second European title in Gothenburg recently.

With only one event, the women's singles, to be decided, and a Soviet in the lead at the halfway stage of that division, the USSR are on their way to their first clean sweep of the gold medals.

Karen Barber and Nicky Slater, the British champions, were narrowly beaten in a 5-4 decision by the West Germans, Petra Born and Rainer Schoenborn — just as they were in Gothenburg — and remained in sixth place. Their coach, Jimmy Young, said they had skated more aggressively here than in Gothenburg. "I told them to go out and really go for it. I didn't mind if they ended up on their backs a couple of times, they were to attack it; they did, and I'm pleased with that."

The second British couple, Sharon Jones and Paul Ashkham, were the only one of the 19 pairings to improve their position, moving up one place to fifteenth. When Torvill and Dean won their first world title in 1981, Torvill was asked what had changed most in her skating since the pair had come fifth in the Lake Placid Olympics. She said she had learned to feel the music, and to act.

Bestemianova and Bukin must have overheard that remark because yesterday they displayed acting ability of Oscar-winning proportions. It was hard to believe they were not star-crossed in love with each other although in reality they are happily married to other partners.

Two of the nine judges, the Canadian and the Frenchman, gave them maximum 6.0s for artistic impression. Though this was five less maximums than they received when they won the European title, it was possibly a reflection less on their performance and more on their starting position: first of the top five. Judges are reluctant to give too-high marks at that stage, in case

later performances are better. As in the European championship, the second Soviet couple, Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko, took a solid second place, presenting a four-minute routine to various South American rhythms. The US champions, Judy Blumberg and Michael Seibert, had a near-disaster when Blumberg's head plummeted towards the ice. They had made a minor error earlier, but managed to stay third.

The top two couples reaffirmed they would stay in competition until 1988. Blumberg and Seibert, who said after they won bronze medals in this event last year, that they were definitely quitting, but then changed their minds in September, said they would make no plans for at least two months.

Barber and Slater are not making any quick decisions either. Jimmy Young said: "We told them not even to think of retiring until they have had a month off at home. Then they will phone me and we'll discuss what will happen. We have to make this decision every year: to decide when they're disappointed with their placing and tired from a long season is not sensible."

Young has already picked out music he would like them to consider for next season, but has not let them hear it yet. A point in favour of their continuing, even though they have not done as well as expected internationally, is that the climate is favourable for ITV to extend their annual £18,000 grant. The viewing figures have been extremely good: the exhibition programme from the European Championships on a Sunday, shown by both ITV and BBC, drew 9.4 million viewers to ITV.

Barber and Slater had one slight mis-step in their Dragon Dance, performed to music composed for them by Mike Batt. They came on straight after the Russians, when the ice was still wet and a little soft.

Jones and Ashkham had performed earlier under better conditions, although they had a poor draw: Second on Jones said "We had a bad practice in the afternoon, but skated much better in the evening."

An upwardly mobile trio set to strike out

MILLION POUND transfer fees may have been consigned to the dustbin of history but original talent still costs anything between half a million and £900,000. The half-dozen clubs who can afford to lay out such huge sums on a single player are in fierce competition for the handful of goalkeepers active outside the major conurbations of Merseyside, Manchester and London.

PETER DAVENPORT

PETER DAVENPORT was a latecomer to professional football, signed for nothing by Nottingham Forest after they had spent millions of pounds on Trevor Francis, Ian Wallace and Justin Fashanu. But he has made such starting progress in three seasons at the City Ground that Brian Clough, a man rarely given to praising his own players, feels he is now ready for full international recognition.

Like Lineker, Davenport has maintained an average of a goal every two games, having scored 40 in 82 appearances. He was Forest's joint leading scorer with Gary Birtles last season, netting 15 goals, which helped the young team finish a creditable third in the First Division. Since August he has struck another 15, including four penalties, which he takes with aplomb.

"Davenport is very positive and quick off the mark," said one leading manager who declined to be named for fear of boosting the striker's transfer fee. "He is mobile, makes himself available in all parts of the field, and refuses to accept the ball off every time he is challenged. This is a boy who really goes for it."

Clough turned down a £400,000 offer from Everton — who once told him he would make a professional — earlier this season but now Liverpool are interested in Davenport, who may want to return to his native Merseyside

As soccer's transfer deadline draws closer, Robert Armstrong analyses the strengths of the First Division's three most sought-after strikers whose contracts end this summer

As the March 28 transfer deadline draws closer, the League leaders Everton and their championship rivals Spurs and Manchester United will be contemplating a fresh plunge into the transfer market in an attempt to lift the game's most coveted domestic trophy. Signaling the right player as the optimum moment can win a manager a place of honour in the record books.

Whatever happens in the next few weeks,

three of the most eagerly sought goalkeepers in the country must make crucial career decisions when their respective contracts expire this summer. Gary Lineker (Leicester), Peter Davenport (Nottingham Forest) and Chris Waddle (Newcastle), who are all around 24, have each made their reputation with a single club but the lure of contracts worth £100,000 a year is bound to strain the bonds of long-term loyalty.

GARY LINEKER

GARY LINEKER is among the top two or three goalkeepers in the First Division — statistics prove it conclusively. The 24-year-old striker has achieved the golden target of a goal every two games since establishing a regular place in the first team in August 1981.

In the last three seasons Lineker has netted the formidable totals of 19, 28 and 22 goals respectively. This season he is well on course for a personal record with 17 goals to date. Altogether Lineker has scored 91 goals in 186 appearances since making his League debut on New Year's Day 1979.

Such consistent firepower means that Lineker would fetch anything up to £800,000 when his contract expires this summer. Everton and Tottenham Hotspur are likely to be among the leading candidates for his signature should he decide to leave Filbert Street. But every club with money to spare would think carefully about making a bid.

Ironically, Lineker once feared he might be too small to make the grade. At the age of 18 he was only 5ft 6in and 126lb but he has grown 41 inches and put on three stone in the past six years. His greatest asset is an astonishing turn of speed which can make competent defenders look cumbersome.

Though another Leicester striker, Frank Worthington, was Lineker's boyhood hero, the younger



man does not try to emulate his elegant style, relying instead on a direct, functional approach inside the box. Lineker's early experience of the Second Division, where there is little time to dwell on the ball, helped streamline his game to sharp essentials.

It remains to be seen whether he will accept Worthington's recent advice to leave his home town and sign for a major club. Lineker has always been happy in Leicester where he enjoys his afternoon sessions of snooker with the top professional Willie Thorne. Even so, he may conclude that a club like Spurs would help bring his further England caps he desires.

CHRIS WADDLE

CHRIS WADDLE has attracted such persistent attention from just about every top club in England and Europe, including Anderlecht and Real Madrid, that it seems certain someone will make an offer he cannot refuse this summer. The Newcastle forward is a goal maker rather than a lethal finisher but his fresh, confident touch is enough to win him a place alongside Francis and Hoddle on the England bench in Belfast last week.

Waddle's inclusion in the final England 18 is certainly rapid promotion for a front runner with only six months' experience of the First Division. Perhaps some of Kevin Keegan's fame and fortune rubbed off on his 24-year-old team-mate from Gateshead last season during the promotion run.

Though his scoring rate is less than one goal every three games, Waddle's total of 18 last season and 15 in the current campaign would be acceptable to most First Division strikers. Waddle will move for around £700,000.

Chris loves using his left peg to bend a surprise shot round a defender and just inside a post," says a Newcastle colleague who firmly believes he will leave St James's Park. "In some ways he is still a big raw lad with things to learn and he has a habit of appearing to lose interest in what's going on now and then. But he is very difficult to stop once he decides to make a move."

Waddle's occasional



lapses of concentration may be a legacy of his career with the Northern League club Tow Law Town, who received £10,000 when their star player was snapped up by Arthur Cox in July 1980. This was a major break for a man who had been working an eight-hour day in a sausage factory.

This season Waddle acquired an agent, who will no doubt ensure that his relatively low wages become a distant memory before next autumn. Jack Charlton has already taken out heavy insurance against Waddle's departure by signing two strikers, Tony Cunningham and George Reilly, since Christmas. Tyneside's loss is most likely to be Merseyside's gain.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Tokyo). — Ice dancing, final positions: 1. N. Bestemianova/A. Bukin (USSR) 6.0, 2. J. Blumberg/M. Seibert (USA) 5.0, 3. J. Barber/N. Slater (GB) 4.0, 4. P. Born/R. Schoenborn (FRG) 3.0, 5. S. Jones/P. Ashkham (GB) 2.0, 6. K. Barber/N. Slater (GB) 1.0, 7. G. Jones/P. Ashkham (GB) 0.0.

Solution No. 1943: white Q at N6, N at EN5, P at Q3. Black at QB6 and K7. Make either K White, and White mates in three. WK at K2 — 1 K-Q1 KxP 2 N4 K-E6 3 Q-Q2 mate. WK at K3 — 1 N K6 K-B6 2 Q-KN1 K-3 N-Q4 mate, or 1 N-K6 K-B8 N-B4 K-KB3 Q-QN1 mate.

DIARY

THE MINISTRY of Defence is planning to charge one of the world's highest air fares to people who want to travel out to the Falklands for the opening of the Prime Minister's new airport there in May. The return price for a seat on an RAF Tri-Star is to be £2,250 the same as on the elaborate Hercules air-bridge, complete with re-fuelling which will soon be superseded by wide-bodied jets which the new runway will be able to handle.

But an MoD spokesman said last night that this was a coincidence — the Tri-Star fare was set by taking the cost of a civilian flight to Port Stanley before the Argentine invasion and up-rating it for inflation. "It's not based on what the flights will cost us," said the spokesman, but he couldn't say what it will cost them.

Just for comparison: a return business class fare to somewhere like Tokyo or Singapore costs about £1,100. There was some talk last night that the matter might be reviewed and that journalists and others might get a reduction or a free flight on the grounds that the grand opening is a matter of public interest.

"STOP interrupting — you're not in the House of Commons now." These harsh words were directed at Eudine Currie MP this week by Councillor Mrs Marjorie Brown at a meeting of Birmingham City Council. The widely disliked Eithel is still a member there, although she rarely turns up and no longer lives in the city. After this rebuke, she went straight back to London without waiting for tea.

PETER Tatchell, who has counted over 250 attacks on his home and his person since his unfortunate by-election campaign in Bermondsey three years ago, says he narrowly escaped being knifed by the thugs who jumped him outside a London tube station this week. He says one of them told him: "We've read about you queers and the gay plague." Parts of the popular press should take some responsibility for this, he feels, and he's asking the local police to give him a degree of protection.

MPs should take care when approached by delegations from the Institute of Professional Girl Servants. Their union magazine advertises a booklet about pressing their case in Parliament under the headline: "Lobbying MPs — the do's and don'ts." The new militancy among Government servants is really catching on.

ONE OR two well-educated middle class female noses are being put out of joint by Carol Sarler Productions, which is recruiting staff for late-night women's magazine programmes going on Channel 4 from July. Carol Sarler is the former editor of Honey magazine who left saying it was all controlled by men; he advertises that "your type is already on the team." Another was told that the performance on her demonstration tape was rather too smooth and a third was told that she might be all right if she could camp up her Northern accent a bit. Unfair to the glitterati?

A FINE Spring day, and 200 Greenwich women were in Fleet Street singing their praises from a fourth floor window in the Sun building, a banner suddenly appeared: "We work for the lie factory." The cheering swelled for a minute until the treacherous message was withdrawn.

AT LAST, the facts on Arthur Scargill's health, in which the Special Branch apparently takes a close interest, Nicholas Jones, the stalwart BBC radio correspondent who covered the strike, writes in The Listener this week that he once chatted to a senior SB man who said he should find out how many doctors Arthur Scargill had visited recently. Some time later he did ask, and was told Mr Scargill went to his doctor when he felt run down and when he prescribed pills. They had no effect and he suggested vitamin tablets, which he is apparently still taking. In retrospect, writes Mr Jones, this is "especially alarming — especially because National Coal Board directors frequently asked him how Mr Scargill was and whether he was taking any medicine."

Stephen Cook

WHAT'S the biggest dome in Britain? No. 1 not Wren's St Paul's, which has a titchy diameter of 112 feet, but Panizzi's Reading Room in the British Museum. Its 12-foot diameter is a full 12 inches wider than Michelangelo's dome of St Peter's in Rome, and only two feet smaller than that of the Pantheon stands on piers that occupy more than 7,400 square feet, the 20 cast-iron piers of Panizzi's take up only 200 square feet. It was as economical in time and money as it was in space. It took a mere three years to build, from 1854 to 1857, and cost £150,000.

You need a reader's ticket to see it. Presumably, whatever plans are decided on for the Reading Room's future use, they will involve public access when the library moves out to the new building currently being constructed to the west of St Pancras station, but that will be until the end of the century.

When that day comes, public access to this stupendous building will be a huge bonus to the public but without prejudging Colin St John Wilson's new building, those who have worked in the Reading Room will be sad to leave this great place where notable readers before them have included such as Gladstone, Marx, Lenin (who read there under the assumed name of Jacob Richter, LL.D.), Gandhi, Hardy, Bernard Shaw, Yeats and a host of other distinguished names as well as less celebrated (and often amiably and doltily eccentric) scholars.

The inescapable fact is that the library has long outgrown its nest. Like the Natural History Museum before it, the library has to find a home of its own. In organisational terms it has in fact been separate from the British Museum since 1873, when it was granted independent status and became the British Library. Physically it is already semi-independent, since half the collection is held outside the British Museum in 19 buildings in London and a complex of buildings in Yorkshire.

The British Library can fairly claim to be the greatest library the world has seen since the destruction of Alexandria. Its sheer size boggles the mind. Its 15 million volumes take up 380 miles of shelving. That's the distance from London to about 40 miles north of Edinburgh. If you could read books at the rate of a mile of shelves a day you wouldn't be able to get through them in a year because by December 31 an extra nine miles would have been added.

The problem with such a vast collection is that it can all too easily outstrip the ability of readers to find what they're looking for. The Lenin Library in Moscow is reckoned to be the biggest in the world. Its defect is that nobody knows just what is in it. That is why the catalogue is so important, and the



Pictures of the British Library by Garry Weiser

Richard Boston in the bowels of the British Library.

Shelf life under the dome

most important asset to a great library — as essential as the front-door key is to a house.

The BL's catalogue is vast. The general catalogue in the Reading Room consists of volumes large enough to require some physical effort to remove them from the shelves. Entries are pasted in leaving space for subsequent entries. This means that there's a good deal of blank space, even allowing for that you cannot fail to be impressed by its size. There are 2,223 of these volumes. There is only one copy of the general Catalogue, which has taken 150 years to compile at an accumulated cost reckoned to come to some

£500 million. It is in the process of being published in conventional book form, which when complete will come to 380 volumes. Only a few people have read the whole thing. Dr. Robin Alston (to whom we'll come back in a minute) has read it twice. It took him five years each time.

Even this massive work catalogue only part of the collection, the printed books up to 1875. Amongst other things in the BL is the newspaper library at Colindale, as well as 150,000 manuscripts, seals and papyrus, including chapters of Anglo-Saxon kings, the Lindisfarne Gospels, the Luttrell Psalter, two copies of Magna

Charta and the manuscript of Alice's Adventures Under Ground with Lewis Carroll's own drawings.

The Department of Manuscripts has the greatest collection of Western manuscripts in the world. Until now it has been necessary to consult more than 30 catalogues and indexes to make a comprehensive search of these into a single comprehensive index was undertaken. Last week the first volume was published by the firm of Chadwyck-Healey in Cambridge. When complete it will come to 6,000 pages. Vast as the General Catalogue is, it has its drawbacks, chiefly that its entries are simply in alphabetical order of authors, and not by titles or according to subject matter. What would be really useful would be a form of catalogue that could tell you, say, what books on a particular subject were published in a particular year without the enormous labour of reading all 2,223 volumes.

Thanks to the computer this is beginning to become a reality. Which brings us back to Dr Robin Alston, the BL's Consultant in Bibliography, and editor of the 18th century Short Title Catalogue (ESTC). This is what is called a union catalogue, which lists all known copies of all books in libraries all over the world. The first, by Pollard and Redgrave, covered the years from Caxton to 1640, and was published in 1938. In 1956 Wing's STC came out, covering 1641-1700. Robin Alston has taken on the next century.

This is a much bigger undertaking than the previous STCs on account of the explosion of printing after 1650 when the Licensing Act was repealed. Before then books could only be printed by members of the Stationers' Company, which had enjoyed a monopoly since 1557, with printing of books restricted to London, Oxford, Cambridge and York. In the whole history of printing in

England up to 1685 there were 100,000 titles printed. In the subsequent century there were some 400,000. Alston's task is thus four times that of Pollard, Redgrave and Wing put together.

He has already catalogued the BL's 150,000 volumes for the eighteenth century. The result was published in microfiche form in 1983, the daunting task having been completed in only five years. By the end of the decade the ESTC union catalogue should be complete, listing not only the BL collection but also the holdings of 700 other libraries.

It will not be in book form but on computer. The result is already a remarkable aid to scholarship since it removes so much of the drudgery of research. Questions that would previously have taken years to answer (and then probably incompletely) are now the work of a moment. Alston gives as an example a rather unfortunate man who had been listing all the books published by a bookseller called Nourse. In 14 years he had compiled a list of 680 titles. In a matter of seconds the computer came up with 751.

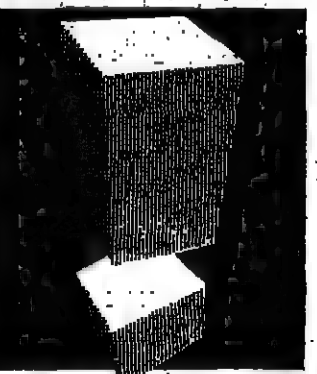
The bibliographical descriptions are coded not just under authors, but also by title, imprint, year of publication and some thirty other headings. The result is that the number of questions you can ask is virtually limitless.

Suppose you want to know about 18th-century books on families. Tap-tap-tap the keyboard and Jamaica comes up on the screen. And you're interested in gardens. Tap-tap-tap. There you are — the titles of four books on gardens in Jamaica. You want to know about persons? Within seconds we have 262 books in the titles of which occurs the word person, personage and other derivatives. Books by people called Boston? Instantly we have the titles of 75 Boston publications (mostly of a religious and moralistic nature: there must have been a genetic change in the family of late).

It's also very cheap. With Robin Alston and a staff of seven in London and another six working at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and a computer link in California, the project will cost about 4 million pounds, which is only four times as much as the publisher's advance on a pop star's autobiography, and a lot more useful. At 6p an inquiry it is also very cheap for the user.

Libraries in other countries are following the methodology developed by Dr Alston and his colleagues. It's good to be able to beat the drum for once and extol something in which we lead the world. It's doubly satisfying that this remarkable work should be happening in the British Library, which (with its parent the British Museum, and its sibling the Natural History Museum) must surely rate as one of the seven wonders of the modern world.

A snotty-nosed tale



ENDPIECE Roy Hattersley

THE ENDPIECE which follows is not about Bridlington. Readers who missed last week's column may wonder if that startling negative assertion was inspired by N. F. Simpson. For to paraphrase the immortal cross-examination from One Way Pendulum, it seems wholly implausible that, when I could have chosen not to write about anywhere in the world, I should have chosen not to write about Bridlington. But the faithful will recall that seven days ago I announced my intention of measuring postal reality by walking again along the beaches of the little holiday resort which I had not visited for over 40 years. It is not disappointing that prevents my experience. It is the fact that Bridlington day was spent staring out through the window of the Expanse Hotel, blowing my nose and worrying.

My anxiety did not concern my health, but the way in which I have begun to manifest the principal symptom of my minor indisposition. In short, I have begun to blow my nose like a gentleman. And gentlemen blow their noses in what the working classes regard as a most ungentlemanly way. But a man noted for his civilised behaviour, into conversation, disturbs trains of thought and reverberates its unenchanted way across a crowded room as if the owner of the nose was the only person of importance in

the world. The upper class nose blows with head scarves and Land Rovers. Guards ties and double-breasted chalk striped suits.

I first became aware of it on December 12, 1973. On that day I made a speech in the House of Commons which must have the distinction of ranking amongst the half dozen worst Parliamentary catastrophes of the modern era. Part — though perhaps not all — of the blame lay in the fact that I was, at the time, suffering from pleurisy and (having been pumped full of various pills by my faithful Parliamentary Private Secretary) was preoccupied with the despatch box and urged to read out the text which he placed before me. I am told that I read more slowly, and therefore more comprehensively, than usual. But since it was obvious (even to the not super-perceptive backwoodsman opposite) that I was performing under the influence of drink or drugs, the House of Commons began to enjoy one of its favourite sports — baiting the wounded.

I recall very little of what happened. Though the pained expressions of my civil servants, sitting to my left in the "officials' box" kept rising up before me like Raskolnikov's recurring dream in the Brothers Karamazov. The one moment of the whole awful half hour which I remember with any clarity was when a senior and patrician occupant of the Opposition Front Bench extracted from his pocket a huge spotted silk handkerchief and began to perform on it as if it were a trombone. For several seconds I abandoned the unequal duel of content. If my speech ever had a hope of being described as "adequate," "workmanlike" or by any of the other adjectives of faint praise with which our Parliamentary efforts are damned, it lost its chance at that moment.

Several weeks later, when I had recovered, convalesced and returned to the scene of my oratorical crime, I observed to an associate of the membrane virtuoso that I had expected better of a man noted for his civilised compassion. The recipient of my complaint was scandalised that I should have made such an allegation. Of course my nasal assailant had no wish to distract me from the no-doubt, closely argued case

which I was making. And the idea that he hoped to take advantage of my temporary infirmity was a cruel slander. He always blew his nose like that.

And last week, I heard myself doing the same. At the moment of it, I thought nothing of it. But as the shock waves reverberated from wall to wall and floor to floor to ceiling, I began to feel deeply relieved that I was not within shouting distance of a chandelier or near enough to the Walls of Jericho to become part of the demolition industry. The thought that I might have been within making call range of a whole herd of broody elephants was too terrible to contemplate. There were, however, friends of mine about — God-fearing people who had enjoyed the benefit of decent working class upbringing and who knew exactly how a respectable nose ought to be blown.

The likes of us were brought up to blow our noses apologetically. Sinus disorders were not within the family which reared me by hand — regarded as anything less than a disaster. The handkerchief was removed from the pocket with a reticence which was almost furtive. And the extraction operation was accompanied by nervous glances at the object which slowly emerged from the pocket.

The cleanliness being confirmed, it was moved halfway up towards the head. And the head was lowered to meet it in the hope that the entire operation could be completed in surreptitious silence. Yet last week at the Expanse Hotel in Bridlington, I blew as if I were Gabriel and my nose the animated instrument of the Last Trump.

I have spent the week in terror. If the disease catches hold, God knows what anti-social symptoms I shall begin to develop. If the infection spreads I may begin to shout in restaurants, stand so close to the bar in country public houses that no one else can buy a drink and ask loud questions in theatres about the television series in which the leading lady recently appeared. It has taken a full week to remind me that the sons and daughters of the gentry are instinctively far less concerned than the children of the working classes. When Adam delved, I have no doubt that Eve blew her nose silently on a washed and ironed fig leaf.

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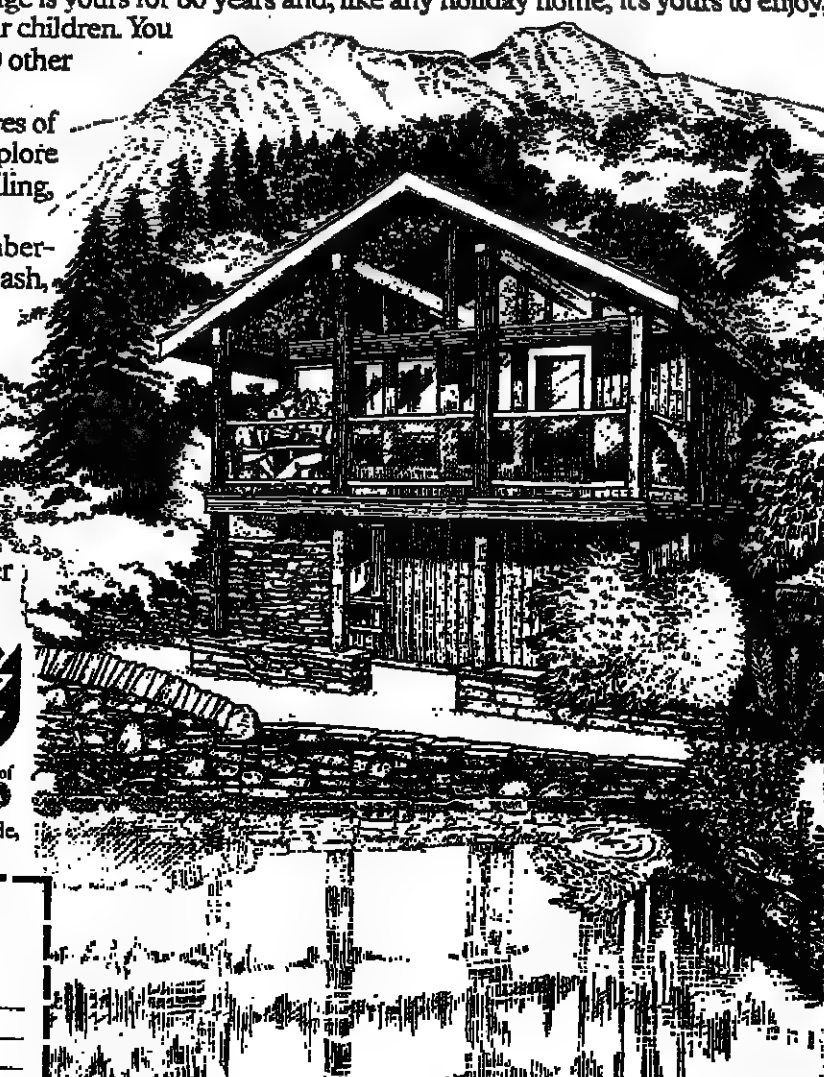
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Sell-off option puts pressure on PO and union to sort out their differences



SATURDAY NOTEBOOK

THE Post Office, perhaps our most enduring public corporation, is facing its biggest crisis for more than a decade.

The growing problem, which is likely to come to a head in the next few months, concerns industrial relations in the Post Office which, without over-dramatising

events, stands at the crossroads.

Decisions to be taken by management and unions, over these coming crucial months will go a long way towards determining the shape, structure and even the style of the Post Office for the coming decades.

At best the outcome of the industrial relations crunch will help transform the Post Office from a business with its roots set firmly in the 19th century towards one geared more realistically to the commercial demands of the late 20th and even the 21st century. At worst, the Post Office will emerge with its roots embedded even more deeply in the 19th century and with the late 20th and 21st centuries even further away.

The crunch has come because the Post Office management, under heavy pressure from the government, wants a radical shake-up of long-standing work practices, staffing procedures and atti-

tudes towards new technology.

Executive officers of the Union of Communication Workers, which represents 150,000 postal staff, are sympathetic to the need for change and might be prepared to trade with the Post Office if the terms are right.

However, the real power of the UCW rests with the membership, and its executive officers do not have a free hand to negotiate with management on key issues. The UCW is one union which does not settle issues in smoke-filled rooms.

Against this background, the UCW general secretary, Alan Tiffin, tried earlier this week to persuade members to transfer some of this power from the conference to the executive.

Tiffin failed to swing the membership behind the plan and the Post Office chairman, Sir Ron Dearing, talked darkly of serious disappointments and setbacks.

Dearing has immediately called for urgent talks with

Tiffin, but a union leadership with one — and possibly two — hands tied behind its back is in no position to negotiate crucial long-term changes in industrial work practices. But Dearing and the Post Office management are unequivocally committed to implementing the proposed changes — with or without UCW approval.

The Post Office's increasingly tough line has undoubtedly been greatly strengthened by the outcome of the year-long miners' strike and the government's transparent hatred of the public sector and its trade unions particular.

But Dearing, a realist, does not want to provoke a disruptive labour dispute at this stage. The Post Office has a long way to go in its separation from British Telecom nearly four years ago, holding down its prices, raising the volume of mail throughput, and consolidating its position as Europe's only Post Office to operate profitably without State aid.

The workforce, too, has made a substantial contribution to this recent performance. Productivity in the mail operation is at the highest since the early 1970s and the UCW pointedly blames the government's strict financial controls for the PO as the major reason for the organisation's unhappy record on mail delivery.

However, the Post Office firmly believes that the business cannot prosper very much further within the existing framework of work agreements. Hence the need for change.

There are several strands to the PO plans, such as trying to match more accurately the levels of mail throughput to staffing levels, introducing work and traffic targets, and reducing overtime. In addition, the Post Office wants to double the number of part-time staff, using casuals more regularly to operate at morning and evening peak traffic times.

Rank and file UCW mem-

bers, though, are strongly opposed to moves which might threaten postal workers' long-standing — and lucrative — access to overtime. It has become standard practice.

While the Post Office is prepared to give staff 55 per cent of any net savings arising from the far-reaching productivity agreements, postal workers see the introduction of more part-time staff and the potential loss of overtime as the thin end of the wedge.

More far-sighted postal workers are content to negotiate sensible productivity and technology deals for increased job security, a shorter week and better payment. They have a good point. The Post Office is on the verge of a substantial change, embracing for the first time the benefits of new technology.

Mechanisation of the postal sorting system is now in the final stages, and even faster types of machinery are available to enhance the operation and sort mail even quicker. Large sums are

being invested in automated cashpoints and the next phase is a mammoth expansion of the 21,000 nationwide chain of post offices to handle other financial services like building society accounts and insurance premiums.

The Post Office's flirtation with modern technology is at a very early stage, but already the potential of transforming the sprawling network of postal outlets is fast sinking in.

The Post Office of the 1990s will be selling a lot more than stamps and there are those among the postal workers who would like to share in that growth and development — and hope-fully its prosperity.

However, without the ability of UCW leaders to negotiate a deal with the Post Office's firm commitment to enforce the new measures, there is the very real risk of serious confrontation in the postal system for the first time since 1971.

Next week brings the first in a series of crunch meetings between the UCW and Post Office leaders.

The major items on the agenda are, by now, pretty clear. But will either side raise a crucial factor unlikely to feature on any agenda — the future of the Post Office monopoly on mail services.

The monopoly was temporarily suspended in 1971 during the long postal strike and private enterprise started carrying mail.

Mrs Thatcher's regime clearly takes a significantly harder line on public service corporations than the Heath government of the early 1970s, and nothing would impress this administration more than the prospect of introducing private business into the posts.

A long drawn out dispute could provide the government with notable privatisation of all.

Michael Smith

Chairman Morse still points to 'an extended banking trough'

Lloyds profits rise to £468m

By Peter Rodgers, City Editor

Lloyds Bank ended a week of results from the big four clearing banks with a £48 million increase in pre-tax profits to £468 million, and a 12 per cent dividend increase. But chairman Sir Jeremy Morse said there was still "an extended banking trough."

The result takes the total profits of Lloyds, Barclays, NatWest and Midland to over £1.9 billion for 1984, after making provisions for bad and doubtful debts of £1.76 billion, blamed on the continuing problems of the British and international economy.

Lloyds own bad debts were up £50 million to £269 million, continuing the trend among the clearing banks to put away ever bigger cushions against the shocks that keep occurring in the economy. The biggest

increase at Lloyds was in bad debts from the stricken countries of Latin America and elsewhere.

The increase in bad debt charges contrasts with a more hopeful picture being painted publicly by banks, including Lloyds, of the aftermath of the debt crisis. They are nevertheless generally taking a gloomier view of the survival prospects of many of their large corporate customers in Latin America and to a lesser extent the Far East.

Like NatWest, Lloyds is also taking a tougher line on debts owed by governments. Chief executive Mr Brian Pittman said that a "substantial proportion" of the £101 million specific provisions for known international bad debts related to sovereign government loans. The year before, bad debts in the international business were only £86 million.

The bulk of a \$65 million sum set aside as a general cushion against as yet unspecified international business, said Mr Pittman.

Bad debts in the UK were up from \$37 million to £103 million, partly reflecting an increase in collapses among small and medium sized companies — at a time when the largest ones are generally improving.

Chairman Sir Jeremy Morse said there were "no present plans" for a rights issue, and the group still had room to boost its capital with bond issues. He said that Lloyds' capital backing was "at least by the standards of British banks very good."

A key measure of the health of the bank, the amount of

capital backing its lending, stood at 55 for every £100 lent, said Sir Jeremy, well above the 40 to 50 range. This makes Lloyds the second strongest British bank after Barclays, which on Thursday announced a £513 million rights issue, Lloyds — which had been tipped for rights issue — announced only a one-for-two scrip issue to reduce the nominal value of its shares for ease of trading.

Lloyds has made a big increase in profits at home but its international profits have dropped, a pattern seen among the other banks. Sir Jeremy yesterday gave a detailed breakdown of loans to major countries, showing that £397 million of its £556 million loans to Argentina are directly to the government. Altogether it has £2.2 billion to Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela.

Akland gets £275,000 package

By Peter Rodgers

A FORMER director of the Barclays finance house subsidiary, Mercantile Credit, received a pension and golden handshake package totalling over £275,000, according to the annual report published yesterday.

The director concerned is believed to be Mr Martin Akland, who was in charge of operations, including the branch networks which were cut last year. He took early retirement.

The report says that an ex gratia payment of £51,180 was made to a former director.

In addition the company made exceptional payments of £224,390 to its group pension scheme to fund an increase in his and after considerable commutation of his pension.

The result was to raise directors' emoluments and pensions at Mercantile House by 38 per cent to £789,000.

Mercury's record profits last year of \$44.3 million, almost double the 1983 level. The chairman, Mr Stuart Kerrington, said the better result was because of a 40 per cent increase in business volume, a rise in market share, better margins, cost containment and a 34 per cent drop in new provisions for bad and doubtful debts.

The annual report says, however, that intense competition "has been the cause of a fundamental review of Mercury's business and after considerable research and study, we found it necessary to merge area and branch offices to bring us to a structure which... stemmed down the total number of offices."

One factor which has changed the business was the phasing out of capital allowances announced in the last Budget. Although this created a boom in leasing, one of Mercury's main businesses, this is expected to be only temporary.

Dollar retreat

STERLING ended yesterday higher against the dollar, which had retreated sharply after early rises due to worse than expected money supply figures. The pound closed at \$1.0892, up 0.45 cents, and its average value on the sterling index was up 0.3 to 71.1 per cent of its 1975 value.

Salvesen plans its debut on stock market

By Margaret Pagano City Correspondent

Christian Salvesen, the largest food cold storage group in the UK, is expected to be valued at well over £200 million when it is floated on the Stock Exchange later this year via an offer for sale.

Salvesen, which is Scotland's biggest private company and one of the top in the UK, will be brought to the market by merchant bankers Cleaver, Benson, Kleinwort, director, Mr John Nelson, said yesterday that it had yet to decide exactly how many shares would be floated and the amount of new capital Salvesen aims to raise.

"You can be sure it will be a good issue otherwise we would not be handling it," he added. The prime move for the public flotation is to achieve a wider market in Salvesen's shares which are held mainly by descendants of the founder, Christian Salvesen. But it also wants to raise new capital for expansion. The issue is expected to take place early summer and the brokers are Hoare, Govett.

Next year Salvesen, which was founded by a Norwegian Scottish family well over a 100 years ago, earned record pre-tax profit of £28.2 million on sales of £210.8 million. This compared with £20 million profit in 1983 and £15 million the previous year. At the end of March 1984 shareholders funds employed were £139 million.

Most of the shares are held by fourth generation descendants. There are now almost 1,000 individual and institutional shareholders on the register including over 350 employees. A recent SAYE scheme was taken up by half of the eligible staff. Based in Edinburgh it employs 5,000 people with 800 located overseas.

Salvesen is divided into three core activities — cold food storage and related businesses, properties, marine and industrial. The food storage business provides the bulk of the profit from its services, which range from processing, freezing and distribution of food to retail chains in the UK and to France, Belgium and Holland. Last year this division, which includes a fish agency and fast expanding cold store operations in the US, produced £14 million profit at the trading level. Sales were £102 million.

It is also one of the largest housebuilders in the UK producing over 2,000 units a year. Activities are concentrated in the Midlands, North of England and Scotland. Around 60 million facing bricks are manufactured a year from modern plant in Manchester. Trading profit here last year was £8 million on sales of £89 million.

Its Aggreko subsidiary is a top supplier of large generators for hire in the UK and overseas.

Hunt International's bankruptcy move

From Alex Brummer in Washington

Hunt International, the sugar refining group owned by the billionaire Hunt brothers of Texas, has filed for bankruptcy following a decision by the group's bankers to cut-off its credit line.

The decision to file for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the US Bankruptcy Laws, effectively protects the company from its creditors while it seeks to reorganise its affairs. It came as Hunt International's bankers sought to sell the three main operating refineries — Great Western Sugar, Denver, Northern Ohio Sugar Company and Godchaux — to a consortium of New Orleans, to sugar growers cooperative, SUGRO.

If the company were to be liquidated its main bankers, First Chicago and Bankers Trust of New York, could face loan losses estimated at between \$150 and \$200 million. First Chicago has already factored a substantial write-off of \$80 million and Bankers Trust says it expects "no further material loss."

The problems at Hunt International are the latest hammer blows to the empire controlled by the billionaire brothers Nelson Bunker Hunt and Herbert Hunt, who were left a fortune valued at more than \$5 billion by their late and legendary father, Mr H. H. Hunt.

They are currently being pursued by the Internal Revenue Service for \$225 billion in tax on New Orleans, to sugar growers cooperative, SUGRO. This is the largest recorded tax claim in American history.

Laker £1 bn suit talks resume

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

Talks aimed at settling the long-running Laker Airways £1 billion anti-trust suit have been unexpectedly resumed in Washington.

British Airways' chief executive, Colin Marshall, has flown to America for fresh talks with the US Export-Import Bank in a fresh bid to reach an out-of-court settlement.

The state-owned Exim Bank has been holding out against BA inspired proposals to settle the Laker law suit with an out of court payment totalling nearly £300 million.

The liquidator of Laker Airways, Christopher Morris, is claiming damages of nearly £1 billion against BA and other international airlines on the grounds that they conspired to drive Laker out of business. Laker crashed in 1982.

The BA deal involves paying off all small creditors the ticketholders in full and offering partial payment to major creditors like Exim. In addition Sir Freddie Laker would receive around £4 million as a special payment in return for a promise not to pursue a private anti-trust suit against BA and other airlines.

Delicate talks between BA and Exim broke down two weeks ago and threatened to wipe out any realistic hope of British Airways being sold into private hands later this year.

The privatisation has already been postponed once this year because of the threat of the Laker case.

Exim, which is owed £72 million from the Laker collapse, has been objecting to a major write off of loans and the special payment to Sir Freddie.

Advice for Lawson

By our Economics Staff

The Chancellor should slightly increase his budget deficit compared with his planned £7 billion for next year in order to ensure continued growth of 2 per cent or so. Dr David Lawson, Group Economic Adviser of the National Westminster Bank said yesterday.

In the Bank's regular report on the British economy, Dr Lawson urges the Chancellor to abjure the temptations either of tightening his policy, as some City analysts have urged, or of loosening it on American lines.

NEWS IN BRIEF

AS indication of those who objected to losing the £1 note, it now seems that certain £1 notes will not fit into vending machines. Some of the Scottish coins appear just a little too thick to pass through vending machine slots, and the Royal Mint has asked for such samples to be sent in for examination.

The English and Scottish £1 coins are all produced at the Royal Mint in Llantrisant, Wales, to the same specification and with the same tolerances. Coins are regularly tested to ensure they are kept up to scratch. In the specification for the £1 coin, no legal edge thickness tolerance was given.

BURNETT & Hallamshire has called on the Stock Exchange to investigate the sharp fall in its share price last Thursday following news that it was talking to its bankers. The Stock Exchange will try to find out who was dealing in Burnett's shares. Last night the shares were unchanged at 55p compared with 135p last week.

NORTHERN Foods disclosed yesterday it was talking to Grand Metropolitan about the sale of GrandMet's Northern Liquid Milk Division, part of Express Dairies. Northern Liquid earned £4 million profit on sales of £100 million in 1983 and market estimates a price tag of some £30 million.

Mercury victor over BT

By Maggie Brown

Mercury Communications, the fledgling communications network yesterday scored a significant legal victory over British Telecom.

A hearing before Mr Justice Leggat gave Mercury a summary judgment that the heads of agreement covering the way in which Mercury's new business network interconnects with BT's established national phone network was not legally binding. This means it can be renegotiated.

A British Telecom counter claim seeking an opposite judgment was struck out. BT said last night it was "too early" for it to comment, or say whether it would be appealing.

Mercury reached the heads of agreement deal last July, in haste as BT was in the final stages of preparing for its Stock Exchange flotation.

It only allows Mercury's domestic "figure of eight" optical fibre systems, about to link Britain's major cities, the use of BT local telephone exchange areas around the receiving station. For instance, Mercury users could interconnect within the Birmingham city centre area, but not to Wolverhampton.

The commercial court ruling, if not challenged, allows Professor Bryan Carsberg, director general of OFTEL, appointed to ensure free competition, to proceed and adjudicate.

MPs monopoly move on Al Fayed bid

By Geoffrey Gibbs

Mr Teddy Taylor, the Conservative MP, has stepped into the controversy surrounding the House of Fraser by calling for the £615 million Al Fayed bid to be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Mr Taylor, MP for Southend East, has tabled a question for the Trade and Industry Secretary, Mr Norman Tebbit, to answer on Monday. The move comes in the wake of this week's Monopolies Commission ruling that a merger of Mr Tiny Rowland's Loro group with the Harrods store combine would not be against the public interest.

"I think there are some important issues of public policy involved in this bid," he said yesterday. If Loro had to justify that it was acting in the public interest, it seemed no less than fair," that he

new bid by the Al Fayed brothers should be subject to a similar inquiry.

The Department of Trade and Industry has already stated that Mr Tebbit expects to be able to announce whether or not the Al Fayed bid is being referred at about the same time as he rules on whether Loro should be released from an undertaking not to increase its stake in Fraser above 29.9 per cent.

That decision is due to be made around the middle of next week.

Loro holds a 6.3 per cent stake in Fraser, having sold its previous 29.9 per cent holding to the Al Fayed for £138 million last November. With a sign of the group adding to its holding yesterday, House of Fraser shared dipped 4p to 402p where they are still hovering just above the Al Fayed bid terms.

Dealing team 'poached'

By Margaret Pagano City Correspondent

Gerrard & National, the City's largest discount house, has poached a securities dealing team from a small Swiss bank in a move designed to further step up its international business.

The six-man team, led by Mr David Baxendale, is joining Gerrard from Sarasin International Securities, the London subsidiary of a private Swiss bank. The team will specialise

in Eurobond trading, foreign corporate and government issues. Gerrard described the move as a "golden-hello" scale witnessed elsewhere in the City's recent crop of defections.

The Gerrard managing director, Mr Thomas Rowland, said the firm felt its international business warranted a wider and more sophisticated coverage which would increase service to customers, and profits.

accountancy not being a licence for fiddling figures.

He agreed, however, that there was a difference in that the hacker with no criminal intent was still invading people's privacy.

The anonymous author says in his introduction: "The sport of hacking itself may involve breaches of aspects of the law, notably theft of electricity, theft of computer time and unlicensed use of copyright material; every hacker must decide individually each instance as it arises."

Later he argues that hacking is "a curious reassertion" of the concepts of freedom, individuality, and human worth which computers, although "vastly beneficial," can threaten.

The Hacker's Handbook (£4.95 paperback) may be shaky in philosophy. For the 14-year-old computer specialist it may not even rate as a primer.

But at least it might add a feather of weight to the pressure on big computer users to spend more money on security.

Mr Cheetham used the analogy of a textbook on

Guide threatens security of databanks

By Peter Large, Technology Correspondent

A guide for the "hacker" trying to break into computer databanks from his home computer is to be published in Britain later this month.

It is written by a computer security consultant under a pseudonym and is called The Hacker's Handbook. The book page hints promises a guide to cracking passwords and information on "hidden sections of remote computers," but the advice the book gives, stays mainly on the surface.

Mr Anthony Cheetham, managing director of the publishers, Century Communications, said yesterday that they had consulted their lawyers and also discussed the ethical issues before deciding to publish it.

He said that hackers penetrating distant computers down the phone line were not out to sabotage or steal. They were just "kids flexing their muscles for fun reasons."

Mr Cheetham used the analogy of a textbook on

DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND CHEMICAL AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES NATIONAL DRILLING COMPANY "ENAFOR"

PUBLIC NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TENDERS NO. EX 03/85

The National Drilling Company, ENAFOR, is launching a Public National and International call for tender for the supply of:

— LOT NO. 1: SPARE PARTS FOR LAND-ROVERS AND RANGE-ROVER MODELS

— LOT NO. 2: SPARE PARTS FOR TOYOTA MODELS

This call for Tenders is addressed only to manufacturing companies to the exclusion of Amalgamations. Company Representatives and other Intermediaries in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 78-02 of 11 February, 1978, concerning the State Monopoly of Foreign Trade.

Those Tenderers who are interested in this call for Tenders may obtain specifications from the following address: ENAFOR, Department Achats (Purchasing Section), 1 Place Bir Hakeim, El-Biar, Algiers, with effect from the date of publication of this notice.

Offers drawn up in 8 (eight) copies should be sent in a double sealed envelope by registered post; the outer envelope must be anonymous, bearing no company insignia or lettering from the Tenderer's company, stating only Appel D'Offres International Ouvert No. EX-03/85 — Lot No. Confidential — A Ne Pas Ouvrir — ENAFOR — Departement Achats — 1 Place Bir-Hakeim, El-Biar, Alger, Algeria.

The final date for submission of Tenders is set at 60 days from the publication of this Notice.

Any Tenders arriving after this time will not be accepted.

Selection will be made within 180 days from the closing date of this Call for Tender.

150 من الاصل

US INTEREST RATES: Federal funds: 8½ US prime rates:

With the end of the financial year in sight there is still time to minimise your tax bill. But you need to be quick off the mark. Andrew Cornelius and Margaret Dibben report on some of the main areas where savings can be made.

MILLIONS of taxpayers can cut the amount of money they pay to the Inland Revenue if they act now. This is the message from Britain's leading accountancy firms as the April 5 taxation year end approaches. They should know.

"With planning and prompt action, many individuals' liabilities could be substantially reduced," Mr Bill Packer, tax specialist at Touche Ross & Co says. To help taxpayers find their way through the maze of taxation law Touche Ross and a number of other accountancy firms have prepared year end tax planning guides which indicate the main areas where savings can be made.

Coopers & Lybrand, Deloitte, Haskins and Sells, Touche Ross and Hodgson & Harris each offer detailed booklets of between 20 and 30 pages, while Price Waterhouse prefers to send clients a simple guide, with the offer of a more detailed booklet on request.

Savings are available across a wide range of areas for people prepared to rearrange their affairs before April 5. Top of the list is the potential saving to be made by employees with company cars. Coopers & Lybrand indicates in its Tax Hints 1985 booklet that tax advantages can accrue if car owners can reach the benchmarks of either 2,500 or 18,000 miles on business.

Married couples should decide whether it pays to be taxed jointly, or separately, for the year. Any decision affecting the 1983/84 tax year must be made or withdrawn before April 5, 1985. You should elect for separate assessment if joint earnings are at least £23,785 this year.

Taxpayers can also take advantage of the £2,005 personal allowance open to any child under the age of 18. Touche Ross suggest that parents could transfer money to a deposit account in the name of the child, but this must be for the absolute benefit of the child.

Deloitte, in its guide, explains that if an employer

provides a low-interest or interest-free loan, employees are assessed only where the benefit is greater than £200 a year. If it exceeds £200 you are assessed on the whole benefit, if it is less than £200 there is no charge, so it may be worthwhile adjusting the amount of interest paid during 1984/85 to move below £200.

Another area of saving earmarked by the guides is pensions. Leaving aside the possibility that tax benefits on pensions may be reduced in the March 19 Budget, it is possible for self-employed people to backdate pension premiums for the previous tax year and claim the appropriate tax relief.

Company employers should also consider whether it is worthwhile topping up the employees' contributions to their pension plan to the maximum 15 per cent figure for which tax concessions are available. This is particularly important for employees reaching retirement age.

The Price Waterhouse mini-guide highlights capital gains, capital transfers, deeds of covenant, charitable donations and the Business Expansion Scheme, which offers tax concessions for investments of £500 plus for individuals investing in qualifying companies, as potential areas which should be explored with the Inland Revenue before April 5.

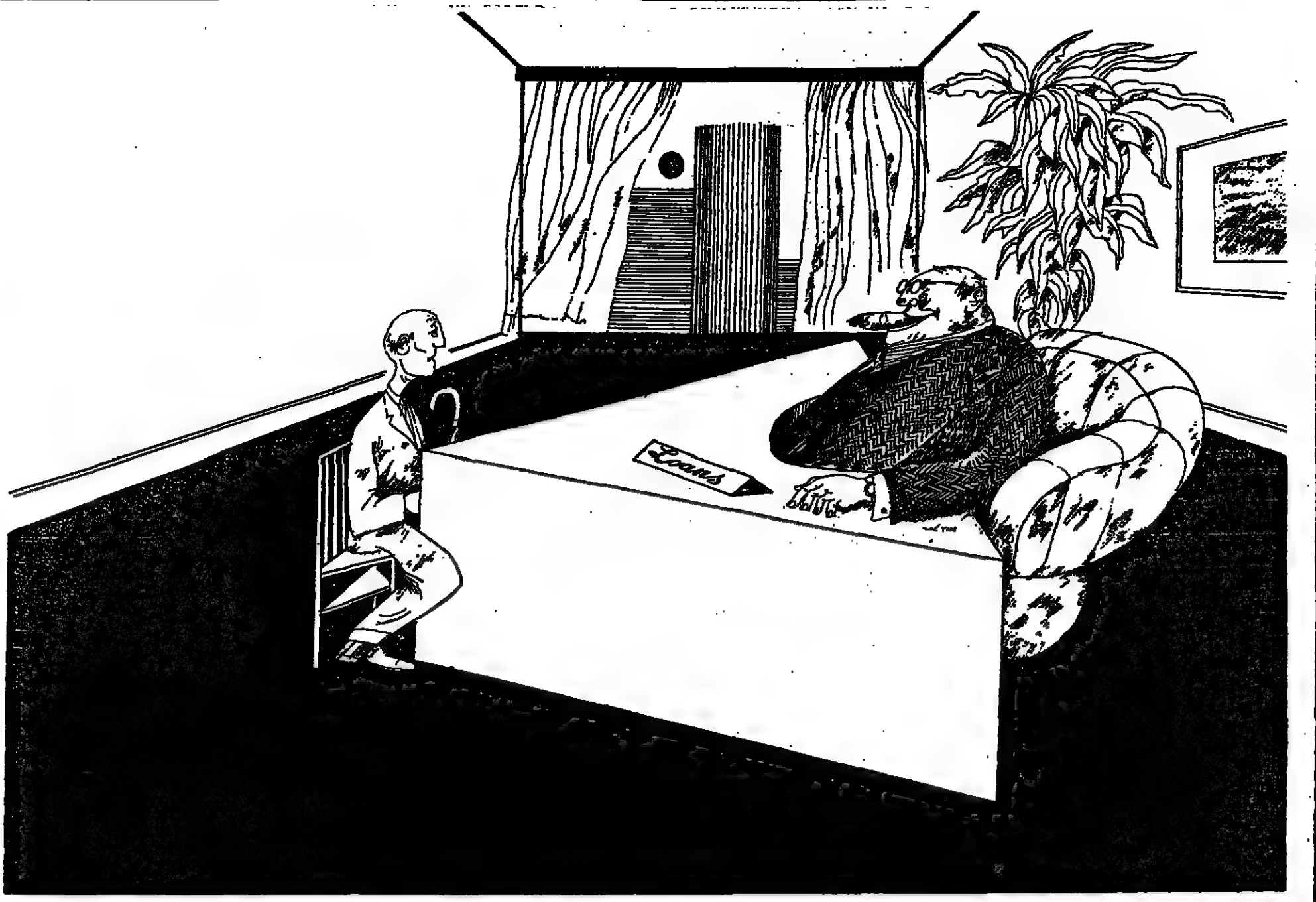
Andrew Cornelius

ADDRESSES: Coopers & Lybrand: Abacus House, Gutter Lane, Chesham, Bucks HP80 1BA. Deloitte, Haskins and Sells: PO Box 207, 128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4Q 4JX.

Hodgson Harris (price £1 including postage): 4 King's Arms Yard, London EC2R 7AZ. Price Waterhouse: Southwark Tower, 33 London Bridge Street, London SE1 1NY.

Touche Ross & Co (price £1): Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3TR. *Guides are free unless stated.

OVERDRAWN



BY APICELLA

Putting your fiscal house in order

WITH JUST four weeks left to the end of the tax year and 10 days until the Budget, there is no shortage of rumours about what the Chancellor has in mind — many of them contradicting each other. The greatest fright has been created by suggestions that precious pensions will be taxed. But an uncharacteristically strong campaign by the insurance industry should have persuaded Mr Lawson that even the mildest tinkering with pensions will irrevocably damage the Government's health.

There is no case for rushing out to buy a pension at this price before the Budget but if you are eligible to invest this way, then a pension will still be an excellent opportunity.

There are however several steps you may be able to take before the end of the financial year to minimise your tax bill,

particularly if you want to delve back to earlier years when you might have missed an allowance. The time limit is seven years, so if you want to claim for 1977/78, the next few weeks until April 5 are your last chance.

If you are in a frame of mind to put your fiscal house in order, here is a list of ways in which you can reduce your tax bill. Remember you are only legally obliged to pay the smallest amount due — that is known as tax avoidance. Tax evasion is a different matter and is highly illegal.

For everyone

- make sure you claim all the allowances you are entitled to. Basic rate taxpayers can save £30 in tax on every £100 of allowances they claim. Higher rate taxpayers can save even more.

- make sure you claim all the outgoings and allowance expenses you can.

- if you think you may have previously missed out on some of these allowances, write to the taxman. You can claim back for the last six years to rectify a mistake. You may even receive interest on the money from the taxman.

- check your PAYE code.

- apply for any new relief immediately. Inform the taxman as soon as your circumstances change so you will receive any rebate as quickly as possible.

- you do not need to include genuine gifts of money in your tax return: the donor is responsible for declaring tax.

Married couples

- a wife can earn an amount equal to the married woman's allowance before she pays tax. If her husband is self-employed, she can earn up to that amount by working for him without paying tax. Or she can earn the same amount from another source.

- if the husband has no income, the wife can claim the married man's allowance.

- similarly if a husband and wife could both command a similar salary by working but one has to stay at home to look after children, it pays for the

woman to work. She can offset both the wife's earned income allowance and the married man's allowance against her earnings. But a man cannot claim the wife's allowance.

- a wife earning a reasonable salary should opt for the wife's earnings separate election.

- but consider divorce if the wife has a large element of investment income. Under no circumstances can this be assessed separately from her husband's money.

- divorce is also a way of receiving greater tax relief on mortgage interest payments. Two single people can each claim the £30,000 maximum but a married couple are limited to that sum between them (except in the year of marriage when they can claim relief on payments for one unsold home).

- in the year a woman is divorced she can claim the single person's allowance in full in her own right, regardless of when she and her husband part. The same applies to widows.

- no tax relief is available to anyone making voluntary maintenance payments. You can claim only if the payments are enforceable.

- if you receive any money net of tax but pay little or no tax

yourself, claim a rebate from the taxman.

- children are entitled to the full single person's allowance. Save tax by making maintenance payments direct to each child.

At work

- could you become self-employed? If so, you could claim far more expenses and settle your tax bill later.

- pay in lieu of notice, as long as it is not stated in a service agreement, is tax free up to £25,000 and beneficially taxed to £75,000.

- consider taking a fringe benefit as part of a wage rise. Many are tax free, or at least taxed favourably.

- if you travel abroad on business, try to go for at least 30 days in a tax year. In 1984-85, 12.5 per cent of what you earn while overseas could be tax free but from 1985-86 this relief will be withdrawn.

- tell the taxman in the year before you retire that you are about to start drawing your old age pension. This will save paying too much tax and having to reclaim it later.

for the elderly, buying an annuity will provide an income and, at the same time, reduce the value of the estate.

Margaret Dibben

TSB's choice for growth today

TSB AMERICAN UNIT TRUST

Growth from the upturn in America

TSB, we believe that now is the time to be investing in unit trusts for growth on an interest-free basis.

Which is why this TSB unit trust has been specially selected to give you the opportunity to invest for growth. Knowing that the trust you've chosen are trusts our experts believe will thrive in '85, and beyond.

TSB AMERICAN UNIT TRUST: up 142% since Oct. '81 launch

The American economy's long-term prospects are looking stronger and sounder than they have for a long time.

The Federal Reserve has pledged a hold on interest rates, and basic manufacturing industries are beginning to benefit from the economy's continuing momentum.

This, coupled with investor confidence stemming from America's very low inflation rate, and the belief that the market is undervalued, has resulted in a long-overdue rise in the Dow-Jones Index, with every indication that the market has further to go.

Aiming to achieve long-term capital growth from investments in North America, TSB American Unit Trust gives you the chance to profit from our investment management expertise, and share in the future performance of the largest economy in the Western world.

TSB SELECTED OPPORTUNITIES UNIT TRUST: up 115% since April '82 launch

Nothing undermines our belief in the basic soundness of the British economy.

Indeed, we believe that the UK Stock Market presently offers plenty of opportunities for good gains, provided the right approach is adopted.

TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust, with its

TSB SELECTED OPPORTUNITIES UNIT TRUST

Growth in the UK plus overseas potential

three-tiered portfolio and its car-to-the-ground policy, brings such an approach to the UK market, and invests overseas in ever profitable situations present themselves.

Looking to the long term, the Managers select companies which, with strong and vigorous management ideas, look destined to achieve — and sustain — a high rate of growth.

For the medium term, companies are chosen because the cycle of their business sector is on the upturn.

Short-term the tactic is to select opportunities for profit from take-over situations, rights issues and new company flotations, all of which, if wisely timed, can significantly increase the trust's overall capital growth.

The recent Telecom flotation was an excellent example of this.

TSB NATURAL RESOURCES UNIT TRUST: up 16% since Oct. '84 launch

Against this background of improving international growth, the world's resource companies are now set for an upturn in their fortunes.

Many of the world's manufacturing industries are stepping up their output and increasing their demand for raw materials.

Consequently, capital investment in plant and machinery is picking up, so companies involved in the production of base and secondary metals can look forward to a recovery in profits.

Similarly, as the construction industry begins to get under way again (particularly in the US) timber and timber-oriented companies are looking ahead with confidence. And those firms involved in foodstuffs are seeing a resurgence of activity as well.

TSB Natural Resources Unit Trust aims for long-term capital growth from a range of investments involved in the world's most vital resources. In the short

TSB NATURAL RESOURCES UNIT TRUST

Growth from the world's raw materials

period since the trust's launch last October, the unit price has already increased by some 16%.

A BONUS FOR EARLY INVESTORS

Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up, and you should regard your investment as being a medium to long-term one.

But, with the US and UK markets holding out opportunities of profit for those investors prepared to take them, and with raw materials once again right to contention for growth, we recommend an investment now in all three of these trusts, and offer you a rewarding incentive.

So long as your total investment is £1,500 or more, we'll give you a 1% bonus of free extra units across the board, at no extra cost to you.

You may, if you wish, invest in one, two, or all three of these trusts, with a minimum of £250 in each. But, to qualify for our bonus, you must invest a total of £1,500 or more.

When you take these terms into account — and take a long, hard look at our trusts' prospects around the world — you'll see that this investment is the right choice for growth internationally.

REGULAR SAVINGS OPPORTUNITY

As an alternative to a lump-sum investment, our new TSB UnitSaver scheme enables you to save as little as £15 a month in a TSB unit trust.

If you'd like to know more about this low-cost, monthly-by-month way of investing in TSB unit trusts, tick the box below and we'll send you full details.

*All Accumulation Offer Price Figures as at March 7th 1985.

THE ESSENTIAL FACTS ABOUT THESE TRUSTS

Manager: TSB Unit Trusts Limited (Divisions of the Unit Trust Assets Investment Management Company Limited, 100, Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF).

Investment: American Unit Trust invests in US equities, bonds, and other securities. Selected Opportunities Unit Trust invests in UK and overseas equities, bonds, and other securities. Natural Resources Unit Trust invests in natural resources, including oil, gas, and minerals.

Dividends: Dividends are paid quarterly, usually in January, April, July, and October.

Units: Each unit represents a share in the trust's assets. The number of units you own depends on the amount you invest and the price of the units at the time.

Redemption: You can redeem your units at any time, usually within 10 days of receipt of a redemption unit certificate.

Transfer: You can transfer your units to another person, usually within 10 days of receipt of a transfer unit certificate.

Prizes: Prizes are awarded to the top 100 unit holders in each of the three trusts, usually in December.

Holdings: The trusts' holdings are published quarterly in the TSB Unit Trusts Yearbook.

Investment: TSB American Unit Trust invests in US equities, bonds, and other securities. TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust invests in UK and overseas equities, bonds, and other securities. TSB Natural Resources Unit Trust invests in natural resources, including oil, gas, and minerals.

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Stuck with a sitting tight tenant

Clare Dyer on a legal loophole that could spell trouble for absent landlords

WHAT looks like a slip of the pen in the drafting of the 1985 Rent Act could mean that many home owners working abroad who have let their houses or flats won't be able to claim them back on their return.

This is the surprising result of a Court of Appeal decision which is causing consternation among companies with large numbers of employees posted overseas. The Law Society is to ask the Department of the Environment to act swiftly to plug the loophole with legislation.

The Rent Acts, which give tenants security of tenure, allow landlords in certain circumstances to let their houses, secure in the knowledge that they can reclaim them when needed as a home for themselves or members of their family. Owner-occupiers, providing they serve a notice to this effect on the tenant at the start of the letting, are one such category. Homeowners working abroad for several years often let their houses during their absence to a series of tenants, serving the notice each time.

The 1985 Rent Act, describing the circumstances in which an owner could get his house back from a tenant, said: "where a person who has occupied a dwelling house as his residence... he let the dwelling house on a regulated tenancy... This has always been interpreted by lawyers as meaning that occupation even years before the current letting was sufficient. But the 1985 Rent Act, which was intended simply to consolidate and not change the earlier legislation, omitted the word "has" and the

omission was carried over into the 1977 Rent Act.

Now the Court of Appeal has ruled that the words used in the 1977 Act — "When a person who occupied a dwelling house as his residence... let it on a regulated tenancy..." — mean that the occupation must have been immediately (or, at least, very shortly) before the letting. So owners who re-let after the first tenant leaves could find themselves stuck with a tenant for life.

Rosemary Pocock, who owns the house at Steep, near Petersfield in Hampshire, which featured in the case, let it to a succession of tenants. Each time, she claims, she served the owner-occupier notice. The current tenant, Karen Steel, took up a one-year tenancy in December 1982, which was extended for three months. At the end of that time she refused to leave. Mrs Pocock, who wanted the house for her grown-up son, who last lived there as a small child, can't afford to take the case to the House of Lords.

The ruling means that owners whose tenants leave may have to take up occupation for a while before granting another tenancy, if they want to be sure of reclaiming their property. An alternative, which London estate agents George Knight and Partners are recommending to their clients, is to make the second and subsequent lettings to a company. Companies don't enjoy security of tenure under the Rent Acts.

Homeowners who are already into a second or later letting without an intervening period of occupation will have to hope that their tenants haven't heard of Pocock v. Steel. If a tenant does decide to take advantage of the ruling, the owner may still get his house back if he can convince the court that he would suffer greater hardship if the tenant stayed than the tenant would suffer by being made to leave.

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السنة الأولى



Do brown rice and exercise prolong active life? It might pay to find out

Lindsay Cook on the rewards insurance companies have in store for those who take care of themselves

GOODY-GOODIES — the people who don't smoke, don't drink, who exercise regularly and eat all the right foods — are about to become more popular than ever with the weak-willed majority. Insurance companies could soon reward them for their blameless lives.

The plans are already well advanced. The Swedish insurance company Ansvar, which offers policies in this country to non-drinkers only, has started a remarkable experiment to find out how much better goody-goodies are as life insurance risks than the rest of us. It has found no fewer than 1,500 Swedish policyholders who have declared themselves alcohol-free, tobacco-free, and full of the fitness that regular exercise, a healthy diet and membership of a Swedish "crisis support" organisation can give.

Over the coming years, Ansvar will monitor the progress of these healthy individuals, and compare them with the

rest of the population. What they are looking for is any evidence that brown rice and exercise produce longer life. If it does, then insurance premiums for such people will be reduced.

Ambassador Life is already convinced that looking after yourself — even if less rigorously than the Scandinavians — leads to longevity and they introduced a Healthy People's Plan last summer, which is also marketed by American Express to cardholders under the title Lifestyle Plan.

A jogging, non-smoking, moderate drinker, who is not overweight can get cover of £26,600 for the same premium as less healthy individuals would pay for £10,000 cover.

Ambassador Life launched the policy with a view of criticism for the insurance companies who were not offering better terms to fitness fanatics. It said: "The speed and vigour of the new health boom has taken some keeping up with. So much so in fact, that most people have been left behind. Not least the insurance companies."

"Incredibly, an industry whose profitability depends upon human longevity refused to take notice of those who made individual efforts to take care of their own health."

The Healthy People's Plan came to the developed because Ambassador Life had a great many active, healthy people working together, who, after studying

official statistics on the latest medical information, decided that it would be possible "to positively rate customers instead of penalise them," as policies often do.

You do not have to be totally fit to benefit from the cheaper cover, but those who qualify in all four categories get the lowest price. Being a non-smoker would add £2,300 cover on a £10,000 policy, being neither underweight nor over weight earns another £3,300 cover, as does engaging in vigorous exercise at least once a week. Being a moderate drinker is less rewarding. Those who drink no more than 10 pints of beer, or 20 glasses of wine or 20 measures of spirits each week receive £1,700 of extra cover on a £10,000 policy.

Under this policy, a 40 year old, who smokes, drinks, is overweight, and does not take exercise pays £18.51 a month for £25,000 of cover, while a much healthier specimen could pay the premiums of a 30 year old — £7.55 — for the same cover.

American Express customers have so far lived up to the image of the health-conscious 80s, and more of them have taken up the Lifestyle Plan insurance.

Ansvar has been offering total abstinence from alcohol — 1 in 12 of the adult population — insurance cover in Britain for the past 26 years and have doubled their business in the last five years. The company reckons it can

offer non-drinkers extra benefits because their lifestyle puts them at less risk than others. For a start, a Department of Health and Social Security document suggested that alcohol plays a part in 30 per cent of drownings, 20 per cent of road deaths and a proportion of deaths by fire in the home.

Life policies are only a small part of the company's business in the United Kingdom but its British subsidiary is monitoring the experiment in Sweden and anticipates being able to reduce premiums to those with a healthy lifestyle if it is "actuarially proved to enhance life."

Non-smokers have been able to get preferential terms for life cover since 1971, when the Scottish Mutual Assurance Society recognised the difference in mortality rates between smokers and non-smokers, by giving special discounts to non-smokers.

Already established as a company giving discounts to total abstainers, the Scottish Mutual had the facilities to cope with the administration of a two-tier premium system. They were alone in giving special terms for non-smokers for nearly 10 years.

A number of companies have now joined them, and where term insurance is concerned, non-smokers can often find the best bargains. With Scottish Mutual, the

discount for a non-smoker is generally to take three years off their actual age for calculating the premium. This can mean a reduction of up to 25 per cent, depending on the type of policy and the age of the applicant.

At Zurich Life, there are three categories: non-smoker, light-smoker, (for those having less than five cigarettes a day or only puffing a pipe or cigars) and smokers.

For a 45-year-old man seeking £25,000 convertible term assurance over 10 years the premium could be £24.00 a month for a non-smoker, or £13.85 for those on more than five cigarettes a day.

Commercial Union launched non-smoker benefits in November 81 for one policy, and now offer it on a broader variety of their products. The older you are the greater the advantage of having given up cigarettes for a least two years. At 20, a man wanting £100,000 term assurance would pay £9 a month as a smoker or £6.80 as a non-smoker. By the age of 40 the same cover would cost a smoker £30 a month and a non-smoker £18.20.

Most of the companies offering better terms to non-smokers count a person as such after two years free of the addiction to cigarettes, but they vary as to whether they will allow their "non-smokers" to have cigars or a pipe instead, without losing the benefits.

IN BRIEF:

Savings bonds

A LITTLE tinkering by National Savings has changed the minimum amounts you can invest in a couple of their schemes. From next Wednesday, March 13, the smallest sum needed to open a Deposit Bond is reduced from £250 to £100, although you can still only buy in multiples of £50.

From April 1, the minimum deposit for an Investment Account is raised from £1 to £5; and later in the year the minimum purchase of Premium Bonds will be raised from £5 to £10 sold in 25 units. The exact date for this change has still to be decided.

Cover points

THE Insurance Ombudsman added his weight to the call for household reform when he presented his annual report this week. Mr James Haswell, who is a good role model for whoever is appointed to the new position of ombudsman for the banking industry, highlighted three areas of complaint that particularly worry him.

Household insurance policies covering leaseholder-flat dwellers have been a major source of trouble, but in this instance Mr Haswell is only able to advise occupants to turn to a solicitor for help.

Then there is a widespread misunderstanding about motor insurance which he would like to see straightened out: if a driver with an insurance

policy that permits driving other vehicles borrows and crashes a friend's uninsured car, that driver is only covered for injuring a third person.

Finally, Mr Haswell emphasises the onus on policyholders to take "reasonable steps" to protect their property. In fact, he says, they should look after it as carefully as though it were not insured. He quoted cases where holidaymakers had taken several items of expensive jewellery and left them on the beach while they went for a swim. He does not regard this as taking care and will support an insurance company's refusal to pay out on a claim.

Neither does he have sympathy with anyone leaving their entire collection of jewellery in a car for several hours.

Mr Haswell, the arbiter for 154 insurance companies, also warns against accepting a falsely high valuation for jewellery. The insurance company, he said, is quite justified in paying only the true valuation.

Some 40 per cent of the cases which passed across the ombudsman's desk involved household insurance claims and about a quarter concerned motor insurance.

Legitimate complaints from policyholders include high expectations raised by insurance company advertisements; lack of concern by company staff dealing with a claim; and misunderstanding caused by insurance jargon.

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Full terms and conditions are available at all Midland branches and will be sent to you on receipt of your application form and cheque. This account is not open to businesses.

*Interest rates correct at time of going to press. Before 6th April, 1985 interest is paid at 13.38% p.a. gross. Interest on accounts at our branches in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man will continue to be paid gross after this date.

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Date _____

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*Figures assume a premium each year of £1,000, current premium rate, monthly contributions apply at the time, and that current basic rates including terminal bonus are maintained throughout. Future bonuses depend on future profits and cannot be guaranteed.

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GP

The Equitable Life
The oldest mutual life office in the world.

3 UNIT TRUSTS

Most successful investors start with a clear idea of whether they want income or growth or a balance between the two. Individual unit trusts can meet each of these requirements, but the problem is knowing which to choose from over seven hundred unit trusts.

Before making an investment in a unit trust you should expect the managers to tell you how well it has performed over the long term. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective. New funds or funds which suffer a change of management are more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record.

We are currently offering three M&G Funds which satisfy the three requirements of income, growth, or a balance between the two. Each has a performance record demonstrating the success of M&G's investment policy over many years. As an incentive we are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more.

Unit trusts are for long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. This is because the price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

An investor of £10,000 at the fund's launch in May 1964 has seen his income after basic-rate tax grow from £396 in the first full year to £2,018 in 1984.

By contrast, a building society investor's annual income has fluctuated, rising from £536 in 1965 to £1,200 in 1980 and then falling back to £853 by 1984. So anyone who depended on a building society for income has suffered a cut-back over the past 4 years, whilst Dividend Fund investors continued to enjoy a steadily increasing income.

In addition, the Dividend Fund investor's £10,000 had grown to £54,300 by the end of December 1984 compared with £27,271 from a similar national investment in the FT Industrial Ordinary Index and £10,000 in a building society deposit which, of course, remained unchanged.

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment, because we will continue to make income growth the prime objective. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and the aim is to provide a high and growing return with a yield about 50% higher than that of the FT Actuaries All-Share Index.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE of £10,000 invested in Inc: one unit at the launch of M&G Dividend Fund on 5th May 1964, compared with a similar investment in a Building Society.

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY
6 May '64	—	—	£10,000	£10,000
1965	£396	£536	10,200	10,000
1970	1,050	1,076	10,760	10,000
1975	828	871	16,300	10,000
1980	1,660	1,200	24,280	10,000
1984	2,018	853	54,300	10,000

NOTES: All income figures shown are net of basic-rate tax. The Building Society income figures are 10% above the average of the rates offered in each year (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G Dividend capital figures are all realisation values.

On 6th March 1985 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were: Income Accumulation Yield Dividend Fund 289-0p 830-5p 5-70% Recovery Fund 245-0p 306-3p 3-81% SECOND General 539-8p 1023-9p 3-78%

Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price and an annual charge of up to 1% of each Fund's value - currently 34% - plus VAT is deducted from gross income (currently 34% for Dividend recovery and 34% for Accumulation units). Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for income units it is distributed net of basic-rate tax on the following dates:

	Dividend	Recovery	SECOND
Distributions	15 Jan, 15 Jul, 15 Oct, 15 Dec	20 Feb, 20 Aug, 20 Nov, 15 Aug	15 Aug, 15 Aug, 15 Aug, 15 Aug
Next distribution for new investors	1985	1985	1985

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. The Trustee for Dividend and Recovery is Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND is Lloyds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wider-range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6DQ. Tel: 01-526 4583. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

M&G SUNDAY TELEGRAPH UNIT TRUST GROUP OF THE YEAR

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched. The table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth over the long term. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '89	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1970	11,780	8,570	11,020	11,088
1975	26,400	11,121	21,283	16,178
1980	102,560	17,287	40,175	25,521
1984	214,720	39,977	52,405	36,769

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic-rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 8% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Trust Fund aims for growth of both capital and income and has a 28-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies, which are kept under constant review.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE of £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G SECOND General on 5th June 1956, with net income reinvested.

Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
5 June '56	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1960	19,534	20,080	11,293	12,483
1965	31,940	28,230	13,492	16,093
1970	47,537	30,540	17,143	21,636
1975	81,543	39,620	33,107	31,651
1980	200,813	61,600	62,494	49,931
1984	463,879	142,410	81,519	71,938

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic-rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra interest account offering 8% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G SECOND General figures are all realisation values.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6DQ. All applications received by 5th April 1985, will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of your choice (minimum investment in any one Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (where applicable or Accumulation units will be issued) at the price ruling on receipt of this application.

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY. A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

	Dividend	Recovery	SECOND
DIVIDEND (Net £1,000)	£ -00	£ -00	£ -00
RECOVERY (Net £1,000)	£ -00	£ -00	£ -00
SECOND (Net £1,000)	£ -00	£ -00	£ -00

Signature: _____
Stamp: _____
TU 361015



COMPANY MEETING: will more small investors take up the cudgels?

A vested interest in the awkward question

Nick Kochan studies the subtle rules that govern relations between shareholders and their companies

THE small investor has almost achieved the status of an eccentric English character. He is regarded as a rather small-minded individual who enters the pews when his perks or dividends are threatened, and then makes an almighty stink. What is not seen is the amount of company and even civil law that theoretically governs the relations between the investor and his company. Of course, boards of directors are not keen to meet the requirements of this legislation, and shareholders are extremely apathetic about exerting their rights.

On the horizon, looms new investment protection law, whose form is as yet unclear, and no one knows when it will go on the statute book. In the meantime, we have the Prime Minister hailing a "country of capitalists," so perhaps we'll see more small investors taking up the cudgels.

The annual general meeting is the formal scene for the scrutinising of the board by the owners. But you are unlikely to see any fireworks there. AGMs are usually attended the same folk every year, a tiny proportion of the

shareholders who have the time during the day to sip tea and listen to chairman delivering dry statements of accounts. But the numbers going to meetings may be increasing. Marks and Spencer, admitted by a company which has a lot of employee and customer shareholders, now gets 700-800 investors to the AGM, twice the number of four years ago, but still a tiny fraction of the total quarter million shareholders.

It is not necessary to attend a meeting in person in order to vote. Notices of annual general meetings will include a proxy form listing the motions to be discussed, and asking you to nominate a proxy - usually a representative of the board.

If you have a question to put to the management you can write in to a director, or to the company's stockbrokers, but the AGM offers an opportunity to see the board in action in the time allowed for questions. In companies like Rio Tinto Zinc or Barclays this can be the point at which pressure groups want to know about South African investments. Most AGMs, however, are like those at Marks and Spencer where the majority of points raised are customers' questions - why isn't there a store in John O'Groats, or shouldn't they sell blue jumpers rather than pink ones? Hardly anyone, says the company secretary, asks serious financial questions, about, say, its curious share structure or its very low bank borrowings.

One area where shareholders can be disruptive within the subtle rules of the AGM is when they are asked to approve the appointment of new directors, or the reappointment of existing ones whose contracts have come up for renewal. Directors' competence can be questioned, or they can be asked to describe, precisely, their function. Theoretically, a board's recommendation can be voted out. In practice this rarely happens.

The most effective protests at management decisions are made by shareholder action groups or ginger groups. If these can mobilise press opinion around a newsworthy subject, the board may get edgy. Michael Edwards recently abandoned his stock option deal at Dunlop in order to appease the company's shareholder action group.

To form such a group, the first step is to go to the company's registrar, whose address will be in the annual report, to locate other shareholders. A copy of the register can be provided for 10p per hundred words - the chairman of the recent Dunlop shareholders' action group, found there was a computerised document, and was able to specify that he wanted only the names of the biggest 2,000 shareholders. At Chloride, on the other hand, the whole register was bought, at a cost of £500.

These ginger groups will make the best of their case where the committee includes people who understand the financial and legal complexities of company law. The register

may indicate who are accountants and solicitors. The Chloride action group includes both accountants and an ex-research director at the company.

If the annual meeting fails to give any satisfaction, there is the remedy weapon of an extraordinary general meeting, which shareholders themselves can call, but only if the action group has 10 per cent of the equity backing it. This may be no easy task when several thousand shareholders may need to be mobilised.

And even if the extraordinary meeting is called, any shareholders' resolution can be voted down, probably quite easily, by the massed forces of the institutions, or the family shareholders.

Another route for the aggrieved shareholder is via an official body. The Institute of Chartered Accountants can be told if the finance director gives unsatisfactory replies. Complaints can be made to the Stock Exchange if it concerns the management of a publicly quoted company. The Department of Trade and Industry can be approached by a group of shareholders representing at least 10 per cent of the equity if the managers of the company are suspect. If an investigation is set in motion, however, it will take two years before a verdict.

Finally, the civil courts have become increasingly useful as vehicles for cases where there is a charge of discrimination in the employment of minority groups.

SPECIAL SIX MONTHS' TRIAL OFFER

It's Your Turn To Get Rich!

Free Calculator Watch



Which of these 8 money-spinning ideas could set you on the road to riches... NOW?

1. A profitable business you can run part-time from your home, until commissions start pouring in. A turnover of £70,000 is the least you can expect when things get rolling - and all that's required from you is a talent for working with your hands.
2. A little-known British franchise that can earn you £200 a week carrying out just 3 simple jobs - or £1,000, if you insist on working Monday to Friday!
3. A disappearing British craft that could earn you £200 a week with no effort on your part. You start with a big advantage - saving 75% off the usual start-up costs - then sit back and watch the money roll in.
4. An opportunity to get rich quickly by capitalising on other managers' mistakes. The secret lies in finding just 1 or 2 big manufacturers in your area with surplus stock. You add your list commission on top!
5. A lucrative opportunity to clean up in waste disposal, to the tune of £26,000 a year! You invest only £1,500 in equipment; sales leads are handed to you on a plate.
6. A simple way to profit from your talent - requiring virtually no effort on your part. You start with a big advantage - saving 75% off the usual start-up costs - then sit back and watch the money roll in.
7. An all-new concept in video shops that operates as a lucrative side line business - requiring virtually no effort on your part. You start with a big advantage - saving 75% off the usual start-up costs - then sit back and watch the money roll in.
8. A chance to cash in on one of the hottest new products from America. Your timing couldn't be more perfect - this ingenious greenhouse system is vital now we're switching to metered water supplies.

If you've often thought of starting your own business - because you know it's the only way to make really big money - the list above should be of great interest to you. Because it gives you 8 money-spinning ideas you could set in motion now to tap the rich potential that awaits you in the world of small, private enterprise. The fact is, most people who have struck it rich working for themselves have succeeded on the strength of a single, innovative idea. Such gift edged ideas don't always require huge amounts of capital to set in motion. (Many, in fact, require no money whatsoever!) Nor do they even demand long, arduous hours of work. (Many of the millionaires whose pictures you see splashed across the society pages started their ventures part-time, then expanded on the strength of other people's labour!) What you do need to make money in your own business, however, is the right idea. One at perfectly tailored to your talents, interests and financial aims, success is virtually guaranteed.

Get all this valuable 'start up' advice at no extra cost, as a member of The Institute of Small Business. (Membership is free with your subscription!)

Confidential business appraisal service
Our team of business experts will appraise your business plans in depth, before you get started. Just return the form provided with your first issue, and our advisors will pinpoint any weaknesses, highlight the strengths, and make sure you don't overlook any hidden opportunities!

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Whenever a problem or question arises with regard to your enterprise, you can get free assistance just by writing or calling our Advisory Service, run by Colin Barrow, author of The Small Business Guide (published by BBC Publications).

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lot of opportunities, then leave you on your own to sort things out. We'll tell you what costs are involved - how to get finance - whether or not you need special training (and where to find it) - and how much you can expect to earn in your chosen business.

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Your TRIAL subscription for the first six months will be at HALF PRICE - just £15.

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Complete and return your Bankers' Order before 19th March 1985 and we will send you within 28 days, FREE of charge a superb CALCULATOR WATCH.

You won't find a better, or more useful, watch anywhere. Not only does it have all the normal digital functions but it can also be used as a high powered calculator. This watch normally sells for £15, or more. Together with your half-price saving, you have to agree, it all adds up to an outstanding offer!

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The, please enter my subscription to New Business Ideas. I will receive my first six months' subscription at half-price - a saving of £15. I will also receive a Calculator Watch, absolutely free if I subscribe by bankers order.

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DATE _____

£20 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £20 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st January 1985 your total outlay of £3,600 would have built up to £7,196. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, M&G SECOND General Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £15,320, an extra £8,124.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £20. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so by completing the Bankers Order form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit Trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic-rate tax. Further details of the Funds and

WHAT YOU COULD HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR £20 A MONTH BY 1st JANUARY 1985

	5 YEARS (1 Jan. 1980 to 1 Jan. 1985)	10 YEARS (1 Jan. 1975 to 1 Jan. 1985)	15 YEARS (1 Jan. 1970 to 1 Jan. 1985)
Amount paid in	1,200	2,400	3,600
M&G Dividend	2,288	7,513	16,705
M&G Recovery	1,913	8,446	22,734
M&G SECOND	2,039	7,262	15,320
FT Industrial Ordinary Index	2,160	6,143	11,259
Building Society Savings Account	1,499	3,840	7,196

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic-rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are 'bid' prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

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the rules of the plan are available on request. All the Funds are wider-range securities and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The only charges are those you normally pay with unit trusts - 5% included in the initial price of units and up to 1% annually (currently limited to 34%) for management. There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan. You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty. The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the 'offer' price and sell at the 'bid' price.

SAVINGS PLANS FOR CHILDREN

The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

NO EXTRA CHARGES

TO: M&G SECURITIES LTD., THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6DQ

I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ (in £20 units)

each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £ (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum).

I wish my subscriptions to be invested in the Fund circled.

☐ AMERICAN & GEN. ☐ INTERNATIONAL
☐ AUSTRALASIAN ☐ JAPAN & GEN.
☐ COMPOUND GROWTH ☐ MIDLAND
☐ DIVIDEND ☐ RECOVERY
☐ GENERAL ☐ SECOND
☐ GOLD ☐ SMALLER COS.

The units will be registered in the name of M&G Securities Limited and held for your account under the rules of the plan.
If the Savings Plan account is being opened for the benefit of a child, please list in the full name of the child.

I understand that further subscriptions can be made at any time (by cheque or cash) and that I can redeem my holdings on any business day without penalty at the bid price ruling.

SIGNATURE _____
DATE _____

Agreed and Accepted by M&G Securities Limited, 10775 Reg. Office as shown. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

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People caring for disabled relatives could benefit — eventually — from an EEC ruling, says Linda Avery

Time to take care into the account

MORE than 50,000 married women, caring for disabled relatives at home, stand to gain at least £21.50 per week for this hitherto unpaid work.

Invalid Care Allowance is a benefit payable to single women aged 16-60 (men aged 16-65) who do not work — or employment — in order to care for a severely disabled person for at least 35 hours per week. In spite of an EEC ruling on equal treatment for men and women in the social security system, the

Government has consistently claimed that the directive has no effect on the rules associated with ICA and which are based on marital status.

Last week, however, Judge Byrt, president of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal, ruled that the Government is acting in breach of the directive. The DHSS has, of course, been given leave to appeal to the Social Security Commissioners, but it is expected that the Commissioners will refer the case to the European Court for their view — and if

is confidently expected that this will uphold Judge Byrt's ruling.

The process could take anything up to twelve months, so it is unlikely that any money will be forthcoming in the interim. However, if you claim now it could be well worth it in the long run.

ICA is non-contributory and non-means-tested. It is subject to tax and the person for whom you are caring must be in receipt of attendance or constant attendance allowance. Since you, as carer,

must be providing that care for at least 35 hours per week you must not be in full-time work or education. Nevertheless, you can earn up to £12 per week in part-time earnings. You must, of course, be living in the UK.

If you think you qualify on these grounds, but would normally be barred on grounds of marital status, put in a claim anyway. If the claim is rejected because you are married — or deemed to be living with a man as his wife — lodge an appeal on the grounds that

the rejection is contrary to the terms of the EEC directive.

Chances are that you still will not receive any ICA payments yet. But once the European Court has reported back, you should receive normal ICA payments and, if so, you will be entitled to a hefty back-payment.

Twelve months may seem like a long time to wait. But given that married women carers have worked so hard, for so long, and for so little there is nothing to lose by claiming.

Profitable thoughts from abroad

Working abroad can mean big salaries and little tax. Sara Webb on what to do with the readies

PART of the lure of working abroad is the legitimate avoidance of income tax and possibly capital gains tax. It is not uncommon for expatriates to have over £500 a month to save and invest.

For a married couple where the husband is non-resident and the wife is resident in the United Kingdom, the husband should own the overseas assets, exempt gifts, and any UK assets which are likely to give rise to capital gains tax, while the wife should own assets which give rise to income but not capital gains tax. For example, the house in the United Kingdom if this is rented out. In this way, UK source income can be offset against her single person's allowance.

The first step is to transfer your savings to a safe offshore centre such as Jersey or Guernsey. There is no point in keeping a building society account because the interest is taxed at source and is not reclaimable.

As from April 6, bank interest, too, will have the same composite rate tax imposed. Expatriates are eligible for exemption provided they notify their bank manager of their non-resident status. But it is simpler to open an account

at an offshore branch so that you can then prove to the Inland Revenue that your savings were held offshore and were not liable to income tax.

Instead of having a joint account on a joint signature, the partner's name (usually the husband) is given to the wife. This gives the wife the same signing rights but means that if she is deemed a resident because of the "available accommodation" rule, the interest is not taxed.



As well as academic qualifications Mr. Bolstede, the position calls for certain physical attributes: nervous, icy-blue eyes and razor-blade-thin lips for example...

There are also various high interest cheque accounts (Lynall, Charterhouse Japhet, Kleinwort Benson, Save & Prosper) which offer money market rates and in some cases

credit cards while stipulating minimum withdrawals of about £200. These may prove adequate for paying UK bills for property and insurance.

On the investment side, gifts are the favourite of the cautious investor, but these are also subject to UK income tax and most have tax deducted at source. Non-residents, however, can make a claim for gross payment by writing to the Inspector of Foreign Dividends, Lynwood Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0DP.

Gross payment is also made on stocks listed on the National Savings Register and these can be bought via the Post Office, which has the added advantage of being cheaper than via the bank or broker.

The other way of investing in gifts is via a gift fund but few investment advisers recommend these because once initial management charges are deducted, the return is lacklustre.

Probably the mainstay of the expatriate investment strategy is the offshore fund. Like authorised unit trusts, these cover a wide range of assets, both geographically and in the type of underlying investment. Unlike unit trusts, however,

they do not come under the auspices of the Department of Trade.

Often the same management groups run both unit trusts and offshore funds and the investment decisions are officially made offshore, in practice the managers rely upon the research departments at their City headquarters.

The problem with unit trusts and offshore funds, however, is that you cannot expect to make a quick killing and moving your money from one to another becomes expensive because of the initial charges of up to 5 per cent.

Research, Gartmore, Guinness Mahon and Schroders have set up "umbrella funds" which allow the investor to switch money between various subfunds investing in equities and currencies at a lower charge.

This may prove an excellent marketing ploy when it comes to keeping hold of the investors' money, but that is not to say that a management company good at managing currencies is necessarily the best one at picking Japanese equities.

Offshore funds require a minimum investment, usually of £1,000, and for the non-resident investor provide tax-free

capital gains and income. If, however, you prefer to make the investment decisions yourself, you should establish a rapport with a stockbroker or portfolio manager and be prepared to put up in the region of £50,000. If you want a more personal service in order to be able to discuss your investment strategy thoroughly, you are talking in the region of £100,000-£200,000 with a management fee of 0.5-1 per cent.

An expatriate who has a tax liability in the country where he is working can place his portfolio in an offshore single premium bond. In this way, the underlying portfolio belongs to the insurance company as does the income, and as long as the investor does not draw the income he has zero tax liability.

Such a personalised bond can be effective in countries like Zambia where income tax rates of up to 80 per cent are prevalent.

TAX SPECIALISTS: Wright, T. Fry Ltd., Chronicle House, 72/73 Fleet Street, London EC1; Thomson's Overseas Ltd., 1 Wilton Road, London SW1. GENERAL FINANCIAL SERVICES: A.M.P. Overseas Ltd., Avenue House, 2400 Howell Road, Bristol.

PORTABLE PENSIONS? DON'T WAIT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO GET ITS ACT TOGETHER

Why wait for the Government to make up its mind on pensions when you can maximise your potential for profitable growth by acting now — with a tailor-made pension plan from London Life?

The longer you wait, the more you stand to lose. A man of 35, for example, taking out a 25 year London Life pension plan today, with a net monthly premium of £50, might build up a projected fund of £121,586*

By waiting another year he saves £600 — but his projected fund to

purchase retirement benefits could drop by £13,841 to £107,745.

That's not only unprofitable, but also unnecessary.

Because whatever changes the Government may have in store, London Life's standards of service, value and performance will remain as high as ever. As will our reputation for finding flexible solutions to complex and changing pension problems.

Let us help you, NOW!

*Based on a basic rate taxpayer and 12% growth to retirement.

Whatever your situation London Life already has the answer.

Tick appropriate box(es) to help London Life help you.

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☐ Controlling director or senior executive?

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☐ Frozen pension from a previous employer?

☐ Self Employed?

To: New Business Department, The London Life Association Limited, Freeport, 100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6YJ (no stamp required).

Name

Address

Daytime Tel. No.

(If you prefer, you can call Carole Woodier on 01-643 8010 or Pauline Hewlett on 0272 279179 to discuss your requirements personally.)



44 and Self-Employed? Here's how you could have a pension at 65, of £61,119 every year for life. For £1,200 p.a. net.

(Your first year's pension alone, would then be more than twice the sum of your total contributions)

That's how attractive a Personal Pension from Friends' Provident could be.

The example we give is for a man, 45 next birthday, paying tax at a rate of 60%. (See the table on the right). In just the first year of retirement you could receive a Personal Pension more than twice the size of your total net contributions, paid over the life of the policy.

But the advantages are just as compelling at whatever age you join. And whatever your tax rate.

What's more your benefits accrue free of income tax or capital gains tax.

And when you retire your personal pension will be taxable as income in the normal way. How good your Friends' Provident Personal Pension could be.

The examples given in the table assume current annuity and bonus rates are maintained throughout. However, for many years, Friends' Provident have consistently declared a high rate of bonus. And though future bonuses do depend on future profits and cannot be guaranteed, we have earned a reputation as offering one of the best performing ranges of 'with-profit' policies.

Who is eligible?

You are eligible for the benefits of a Friends' Provident Personal Pension if you are self-employed, or a partner in a business or profession, or if you earn any part of your income from UK employment which does not provide a company pension scheme. Payment plans to suit you.

With Friends' Provident, you don't have to commit yourself to a fixed payment every month, or even every year.

You can undertake a regular payment programme. Or if your income is liable to fluctuation, you can make use of Friends' Provident Single Payment Bonds.

With Friends' Provident, in fact, you have almost total flexibility.

Start today, and you could enjoy 6 years' backdated tax relief.

You can also catch up on unused tax-relief for the previous 6 years.

So even if you take out a new Friends' Provident Personal Pension Policy today, you can claim unused tax relief right back to 1978/79.

Tax relief at the highest rate you pay.

You are allowed at present by the Inland Revenue to treat 'approved payments' for a personal pension as an expense.

Therefore you can qualify for tax relief at your highest rate of tax.

So, if your highest rate is 40%, or even 60% —

Man Aged Next Birthday	Tax Rate %	Annual Net Cost to you after tax-relief	Estimated Gross Pension every year from 65
35	30	£700	£72,320
35	40	£600	£72,320
35	30	£1,050	£108,850
35	40	£900	£108,850
45	40	£1,500	£50,900
45	60	£1,000	£50,900
45	40	£1,800	£61,119
45	60	£1,200	£61,119
55	40	£3,000	£20,757
55	60	£2,000	£20,757
55	40	£3,600	£24,919
55	60	£2,400	£24,919

All figures suppose current immediate annuity rates at 7/2/85 apply at the time, and that current bonus rates, including Final Bonuses, are maintained throughout. Future bonuses depend on future profits. Therefore future bonus amounts cannot be guaranteed.

that's how much tax relief you receive on your contributions.

What are 'approved payments' qualifying for tax relief?

Tax relief is allowed on up to 17½% of net relevant earnings.

These are defined as all your earned income from non-pensionable employment, less expenses connected with running your business, including stock relief and capital allowances.

If you were born before 1934, however, you can make larger contributions than 17½% with full tax relief, as below.

1916 - 1933 20% 1914 - 1915 21%

1912 - 1913 24% 1910 - 1911 26½%

Friends' Provident Bonuses. Annual and Final.

Unlike a unit-trust-linked pension scheme, a Friends' Provident Personal Pension gives you annual bonuses, which are added to your existing benefits.

These bonuses are your share of the profits we have made by investing on behalf of our policy-holders.

Once added, these bonuses are guaranteed and cannot be reduced.

And once distributed, your bonuses cannot be diluted by the short-term fluctuations of the stock market or any other form of investment.

Besides an Annual Bonus, we currently pay an additional Final Bonus when you retire.

Currently, the rate of Final Bonus is at the rate of a further 80% of Annual Bonuses attributable to you at your pension date.

When can you decide to take your pension?

You can choose to draw your Friends' Provident Personal Pension at any time between 60 and 75,

depending on your personal circumstances. Naturally, the later you retire, the larger the guaranteed benefits.

You can leave the decision to retire until the last moment.

There's no need to decide now.

Four ways you can receive your Friends' Provident Pension.

You can't know what the best pension arrangement for you will be at the time you retire.

So Friends' Provident provide four alternative ways from which you can choose at the time you reach retirement.

1. You can take all your benefits as a pension, paid for the rest of your life. The pension can be paid annually or monthly. The choice is yours.

2. You can take a reduced pension, plus a tax-free cash sum.

3. You can choose to take a pension that is guaranteed for up to 10 years, even if you should die earlier.

4. You can choose to have a reduced pension during your lifetime, plus a pension to your spouse for the remainder of his or her life.

Friends' Provident's 'Open Market' Option.

The benefits we quote are based on rates which provide a guaranteed annual pension (plus additional pension from bonuses).

However, if a better pension rate is available elsewhere, you can instruct us to transfer the total cash sum you have built up to any other Approved Life Office.

So that you can then get the best return the market offers at that time.

Friends' Provident. Profits Into Bonuses.

Friends' Provident are a Mutual Life Office. We therefore have no share-holders.

All our profits are held for the benefit of our 'with-profit' policyholders, and are distributed to them as bonuses.

Bonuses are added to the value of your policy on the 31st December each year.

They are added to your pension entitlement as a percentage, based on both your payments and your previous bonuses.

Why you should act before the Budget.

You will see that the benefits of a Friends' Provident Personal Pension are substantial.

We cannot be certain that the forthcoming budget may not materially reduce the very attractive tax benefits currently available.

So, to make sure you enjoy them, fill in the coupon below right away.

—Freepost— no stamp required—

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I am interested in the security of a Friends' Provident Personal Pension. Please supply me with full details.

My name is _____ (Mr, Mrs, Miss)

My address is _____

Postcode _____

My date of birth is _____

I am interested in benefiting from previous years unused tax relief ☐ (Please tick if applicable)

My Insurance Adviser is (if any) _____

YOUR SAVINGS

	Interest %	Intervenor paid	Tax	£ Min	Withdrawal
BANKS					
Deposit	8.5-9	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	7 days
Fixed rate	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	At notice
Overnight	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	At notice
Current	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	At notice
BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Share account	7.5	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	7 days
Fixed rate	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	At notice
Overnight	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	At notice
Current	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	At notice
LOCAL AUTHORITIES					
1 year	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	Fixed term
10 years	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	Fixed term
NATIONAL SAVINGS					
NATIONAL SAVINGS BANK					
Ordinary account	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	At notice
Investment account	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	At notice
Fixed rate	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	At notice
Overnight	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	At notice
Current	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	At notice
NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES (NSC)					
1 year	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	Fixed term
10 years	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	Fixed term
INDEX-LINKED CERTIFICATES					
1 year	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	Fixed term
10 years	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	Fixed term
YEARLY PLAN					
1 year	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	Fixed term
10 years	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	Fixed term
TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK					
Ordinary account	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	At notice
Investment account	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	At notice
Fixed rate	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	At notice
Overnight	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	At notice
Current	10-12	14 ppts	To pay	1 month	At notice

Weekend Money is edited by Margaret Dibben

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Going through the roof

Israel Berkovitch on how to decide what to do about saving energy

FOR many years there has been strong emphasis on saving energy because of the increased costs of fuels. But a conservation project — at home or in industry — is an investment. How do you make a rational decision about what to choose from among the wide range of energy conservation technologies now on offer? An investment of this kind substitutes capital for energy costs. So it needs to be evaluated by considering the financial savings in energy as a return on the capital cost.

Using this approach means that you go ahead with the project only if the discounted value of benefits over its lifetime exceeds the initial cost. The Building Research Establishment at Garston, Watford, has now published a report analysing possible conservation measures mainly as economic investments — though it also discusses other issues.

The main technique employed is to take the net present value, that is the discounted value of savings over the lifetime of the project, as the criterion. It is calculated as the discounted lifetime benefits minus the initial cost. If this is negative, the result is taken to indicate no benefits; if benefits equal the initial cost, the result is a break-even, which is just cost-effective. Only when benefits exceed the initial cost, giving a positive NPV, is the project taken as worthwhile. Just how worthwhile is then given by the ratio NPV divided by initial cost (using the symbols NPV/K).

Author John Peasey acknowledges that there are many alternative investment criteria and describes them in an appendix to the report. But the main emphasis is the use of the criterion NPV/K. Other important issues involved, and the difficulties of economic appraisal in this field (such as "data of variable quality") are frankly stated, so are the assumptions for the necessarily unknown future. All costs are converted to 1982 equivalent values and DIY labour is treated as free.

Since people do not act by financial considerations alone, there is also some brief discussion of other matters — such as benefits to health from warmer homes, reduced risk of mould growth and condensation.

Even in purely financial terms, the answers are necessarily often qualified, since so many elements have to be taken into account. For instance, it is worthwhile to strip off existing roof covering and improve the insulation in an existing flat-roof where the answer depends on several issues: the level of insulation already there; the heating standard of the rooms beneath; are they part of a ground floor extension, a single-storey flat, or the upper storey of a two-storey house?

And which fuel is being used? So the report gives answers in the form of tables stating the conditions to which they apply.

Difficult situations are encountered in dealing with solid walls. In purely financial terms it is often not worth applying external insulation. But these are older buildings and may need attention in any case, such as rendering or surface tiling to stop rain getting in. In this case, multiple exercises are carried out for various

thicknesses of insulation, and for the costs and energy savings compared with the original wall as well as compared with rendering to prevent rain penetrating.

Even taking this further necessary work into account, the criteria turn out sometimes positive and sometimes negative. The only clearcut conclusion is that where it is worthwhile applying any insulation at all, it is worth applying 50 mm rather than 25 mm. Internal systems of insulation prove to be much more worthwhile — but then you have to remember that you lose space and you will have a lot more trouble making secure fixings for slivers.

This type of appraisal has been carried out for 28 sets of circumstances where conservation might be applied. They can be grouped as dealing with general thermal insulation of homes; ventilation, design of homes, controls on heaters, water heating, changing fuels, domestic lighting. Design deals with what is called "passive solar heating" and "built form", where the aim is to build in such a way that the house itself gathers solar heat and minimises the loss of heat. There is also a section on district heating and combined heat and power generation.

There are still conservationists who go all out for the naive approach of saving energy whatever the consequences and we have needed a study that documents what we all know in principle — that most measures for improving energy efficiency demand spending on capital and running costs. And if that is the case we certainly need a guide to assessing how much it is sensible to spend.

* An economic assessment of some energy conservation measures in housing and other buildings. BRE £12.

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Is this the best policy?

YOUR MONEY LETTERS

answered by Margaret Dibben

I HAVE a building society linked insurance policy which reaches its fourth anniversary shortly. Should I surrender the policy and invest the money elsewhere, or continue it for the sake of the tax relief? — V.G.G., Esher.

STAY with it — especially since you do not appear to need the money. There is no where else that you can get a 15 per cent return on your savings. As to how long you should keep up the policy, the answer is at least as long as the tax relief remains available.

Leaving early

I AM TAKING early retirement (two years before my state pension is due), with a tax-free lump sum. I wish to invest this for income, but will also have to use some of the money to live on. Would National Savings income bonds be a good idea? — K.H.M., Woodbridge.

BUILDING SOCIETIES also provide monthly income schemes, and as you will continue to be a taxpayer, a tour of your high street, may be worthwhile. For instance, the Leamington Spa is paying 9.1 per cent net on its income account. This is worth 13 per cent to a basic rate taxpayer and compares with 12.5 per cent gross paid on NS income bonds.

It is a pity, though, that you will have to dip into your capital. Each time you make a withdrawal means less subsequent income. And in a non-risk account, you always have inflation eating into your capital, too.

High interest

I HAVE £10,000 which I can invest for at least five years. I am 55 and retired. My husband is 58 and hopes to retire in two years' time when he will receive a cash sum of £20,000. We are then likely to have to start drawing on our savings until he is 65. Meanwhile, where should I invest my £10,000 to avoid excessive risk and having to make too frequent investment decisions? — J.J., Bushby.

AT PRESENT there is a good opportunity to lock in high interest rates. This can be done through the guaranteed income bonds issued by insurance companies, which

are offering around 10 per cent tax free. Watch the financial advertisements. It may be worth holding fire for a while, to see whether interest rates move up further, but these bonds are usually limited offers, so be careful you are not caught out by a sudden fall.

Much the same can be said of National Savings certificates. The 30th issue guarantees 8.4 per cent over five years, but another change in interest rates, either way, could prompt a replacement.

Going for growth

I WISH to save for a pension. I am 46. Which is the best scheme for my purpose? — M.S.H., Ashford, Middlesex.

I ASSUME you have no occupational pension to look forward to, in which case you can obtain tax relief on up to 17 per cent of your earnings set aside in an approved pension arrangement. Your savings can go into a building society, a with-profits insurance policy, or managed fund — a mixture of government stocks, property, and ordinary shares. In the five years to January 1, Provident Life's Unit Fund turned £100 into £275, and over three years Pioneer Mutual showed a gain of 125 per cent. Other funds have done less well, but the average five year growth was over 100 per cent.



"Try to think of us as the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow."

Hold on

I AM paying into a savings bond yielding 15.2 per cent if it is cashed in after four years. Now that life insurance premiums are so high, should I continue the bond for its full ten-year period for a yield of about 11.9 per cent? — G.F.S., Tewkesbury.

NO ONE can predict how interest rates will move over the years before the bond will mature, but they will have to achieve a high average to match your expected return. I would say hold on to your tax relief, which keeps you a jump ahead of everyone

else, especially as you do not need the money for the next few years.

House move

MY WIFE is joint owner with me of our house in Essex. Seven years ago she bought a house, on mortgage, in Derbyshire but because it was her second house she did not claim income tax relief on interest on the mortgage. She has now sold her house in Derbyshire and expects, of course, to pay capital gains tax. In calculating the cost of the house she takes into consideration any interest she paid on the loan? — A.T.W., Loughton.

No. The items that can be deducted as allowable expenditure in calculating a chargeable gain have to qualify as capital (as opposed to revenue) expenditure. This definition includes such things as the original cost of the asset, enhancement expenditure, and incidental costs of acquisition and disposal. But it excludes all "revenue" expenditure such as loan interest, maintenance, and insurance.

One way in which the chargeable gain could have been reduced is if you had elected, under S.101(4) CGTA1979 for your wife's house to be your main private residence for the last week or so before it was sold. This would then exempt that part of the gain accruing over the last two years of ownership at the rather smaller expense of making a week's worth of gain on your house in Essex chargeable on its eventual disposal.

Cheap thrills

I RECENTLY took early retirement and received a lump sum of £24,000. After certain other investments I still have £4,000 and I would like to do something interesting with this. I am thinking about traded options. — R.S., Chorley.

WHEN you say interesting you presumably mean exciting, which in turn means speculative. Share options are certainly that, and as such are not for people who need their money to provide regular income and some capital growth at a more acceptable risk. I would suggest that a recovery unit trust would provide you with all the excitement you need. These funds invest in a range of stocks with good growth prospects, mainly because they are going through a rough period.

Traded options are a very sophisticated type of investment, which more people than you find difficult to understand. If you care to write to Miss Teresa Poy (Traded Options Co-ordinator, the Stock Exchange, London EC2), she will send you some leaflets and answer any questions you may have on the subject.

MOST of our forbears lived by and from the land. They lived a rural life and had daily contact with the soil. Then — a couple of centuries or so ago — fast enclosures sent them into the industrial towns for work, but even then they sought a bit of land to cultivate on the edges of these new towns. The reason, I would guess, was quite as much the need to get out of the factories and foundries for fresh air and relaxation as the need to supplement poor wages for large families. Nevertheless, allotment gardening at low rents came to be considered as a dole for the labouring poor, helping them by their own honest sweat, to eke out an often miserable existence.

From then on, allotments were never quite respectable among the better-off, and this attitude still lingers, even though plottolders today include a large number of academics, professional and sedentary workers seeking recreation by gentle cultivation of and communion with the land. Eventually, therefore, it is to be hoped that to have an allotment will cease to be a disgrace. The process would be accelerated if some factor lifting could be promptly into action on those sites which have become eyesores both to the plottolders themselves and to the neighbouring public.

The allotment fraternity believes that much of the blame lies with local authorities. Far from initiating restorative activities, some of them are suspected of deliberately neglecting allotment sites — would-be tenants, and by an unreasonable raising of rents, pricing them out of popularity in order to sell the land to developers. Incidentally, the Central Council of Physical Recreation has similar fears about sports fields being sold for commercial purposes — hence Mr John Carlisle's private members' Sports Fields and Recreational Facilities Bill.

It was the Thorpe Allotments Report of 1969 that made recommendations for an improved status of allotment gardening so as to stop the rot and point the way forward. It suggested, in the first place, that all existing Allotment Acts (there were quite a few) should be repealed and replaced by a brand new Act which would retain the good and reject the bad.

Local authorities are empowered by law to provide such facilities as golf courses, swimming pools, and bowling greens. Michael Hyde welcomes the move to add allotments to their number



drawing by Sharon Finmark

The plot, the law, and the class factor

But so far as the plottolder himself was concerned, the old Act had given him protective rights — a reward for his Dig-for-Victory loyalty in two world wars; he was inclined to small a rat at any suggestion of abolishing them. Nor did he, as an old timer, and nurtured perhaps on a Protestant work ethic, take kindly to the report's recommendation that, in future, his allotment should be styled a "leisure garden". Leisure rhymed with pleasure and had connotations of idleness and hedonism.

So the plottolder himself — or his allotment society — must shoulder some of the blame for the stalemate that followed the 1969 Thorpe Report. Tom Hume, however, a founder member, secretary,

and allotment consultant of the London Association of Recreational Gardeners formed in 1974, saw the value of the report from the outset. So, now, do hundreds of thousands of allotment holders throughout England and Wales. Glyn Jones, secretary of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners tells me he is trying hard to get his many members put in the picture.

Tom Hume played a substantial part in drafting the new Recreational Gardening Bill, introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Wallace of Coslany, president of the London Association of Recreational Gardeners and a one time allotment holder. That was in January,

1984. It reached the Commons in July, but its sponsor, Nigel Spearing, claiming the government intended to oppose it in its present form, withdrew it. An amended Bill was re-introduced by Lord Wallace on December 3. It reached and passed the Committee stage this January and, following a third reading on

February 18, was passed and sent to the Commons — "to the dangerous waters of another place," as Lord Wallace put it. Lord Wallace, in congratulating him, spoke of the valuable contribution that he has made for millions of people who rely upon some improved framework for their allotment work in the future.

The Bill's main aim is to raise the status of allotment gardening and establish it, in law, as a recreation on a par with other recreations that local authorities fund and foster. Section 19(1)(b) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act of 1976 empowers local authorities to provide outdoor recreational facilities — "consisting of pitches for team games, athletic grounds, swimming pools, tennis courts, cycle tracks, golf courses, bowling greens, riding schools, camp sites, and facilities for gliding." The intention is to have the words "allotment gardens" inserted after "camp sites." Beyond that, the intent is to put allotment gardening on a sound and secure basis from which it can develop and help to meet some of today's urgent social needs.

Tom Hume, who has always been reluctant to let the good points of the Thorpe Report sink into oblivion, now urges us to write to our MPs to support the Bill, if and when it is debated in the House of Commons later this year.

Meanwhile, on the home front, and following the frost damage to winter greens, we have set our sights exactly on the season ahead. My share of the members' seed distribution at the Northern Horticultural Society includes samples of the time-honoured Marlock bean and Carlin Pea, as well as some of the more exotic gourds and "lions" to brighten our environment.

Odd jobbing

I ALWAYS TRY to be on top of general maintenance gardening jobs by mid March, before the spring rush is underway. Weeds removed now do not get a chance to seed and save lots of work later. If hedge bottoms are weeded and then mulched, few annual weeds will germinate hereafter. Hedges in areas designated as wildlife sanctuaries, however, should be allowed to retain their tangled undergrowth. It offers protection to many wild creatures.

On the whole, I don't like to resort to chemicals but I make two exceptions: paths and drives. I can't face hoeing long gravel drives and scraping

away at whiskers emerging from countless cracks in tarmac and paving. So I tend to apply a contact herbicide to kill off the winter surface growth, and residual, such as granular, which will deal with emerging seedlings for the whole season. Any perennials which have gained a foothold can be given individual treatment either by hand or, if tap roots or wandering stolons and bulbils are inaccessible, they can be seen off by a translocated herbicide such as glyphosate. Any paths made slippery over winter by algae and lichens can be cleared with a 4 per cent tar oil wash.

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March 15 to 30. Elys 7.30

SATURDAY
BBC-1

- 6.45-7.25 am Open University. 8.30 Roobarb. 8.45 Battle of the Planets. 9.00 Saturday Superstore. 12.12 pm Weather News.
- 12.15 GRANDSTAND. Including: Football Focus (12.20); news (12.50); World Figure Skating Championships from Japan (12.55); Cheltenham Preview (1.40); sports roundup (2.10); athletics - England v USA from RAF Cosford (2.40; 4.15); rugby league - Hull v Widnes (3.30); half-times (3.50); final score (4.40).
- 5.15 NEWS: Weather News; sport; regional news.
- 5.20 DOCTOR WHO: Timelash, Part 1. First half of a make-the-most-of-it tale, with Colin Baker as the Doctor, and Paul Darrow, veteran of another space favourite, in the cast. CeeFax sub-titles.
- 6.5 JIMMY FIX IT. Jimmy Savile obliges more fantasising fans.
- 6.40 THE LAUGHTER SHOW. Comic Gary Wilmott joins resident impressionists Les and Dustin for another send-up session.
- 7.15 ONE BY ONE. A Killer Called Cuddles. That's the new attraction providing a whale of a collection problem for animal man Donald (Rob Heyland) in the latest instalment of the popular drama series. CeeFax sub-titles.
- 8.5 DYNASTY: New Lady in Town. Has Alexia, having shed Mark in shady circumstances, met her match? Diahann Carroll joins the cast as alternative grande dame Dominique, the mysterious newcomer who could be the key to outdo the Messalina of Denver. CeeFax sub-titles.
- 8.55 BERGERAC: Holiday Snap. John Nettles as Jersey cop Jim, convinced that his French colleagues have the wrong man (Michael Angelis) marked as a murderer, in another repeated crime drama. CeeFax sub-titles.
- 9.50 NEWS: sport; weather.
- 10.5 MATCH OF THE DAY. Jimmy Hill with the day's soccer action, news and results.
- 11.5 THE SWEET RIDE. Foolish young swinger Jacqueline Bisset flirts unwisely with the California beach scene, getting mixed up with surfers and tennis bums like Tony Franciosa and Michael Sarrazin, in sassy Melville melodrama, made in 1968. 12.50 Weather; close.

Wales: 9.30-9.45 am Rugby Union: Tr. Tr. Again. 10.00-10.15 am Sports Centre.

Anglia

- 6.15 As London.
6.45 Rapper Days.
11.15 As London.
11.50 Jazz Special.
12.20 At the End of the Day; close.

Central

- 6.15 As London.
11.15 As London.
11.50 As London.
12.20 As London.
12.50 As London.

Channel

- 6.15 As London.
11.15 As London.
11.50 As London.
12.20 As London.
12.50 As London.

BBC-2

- 6.25 am Open University.
- 3.10 MICRO LIFE. Another chance to see last night's edition of the new technology magazine, concluding the series.
- 4.0 WE'RE NOT DRESSING. Loosely based on Barrie's The Admirable Crichton, Norman Tarrant's jolly musical comedy stars Carole Lombard as the rich girl in the party stranded on the desert island, Bing Crosby as the able seaman, plus Ethel Merman, Burns and Allen, Ray Milland. Made in 1934.
- 5.10 INVADERS FROM MARS. Like Invasion of the Body Snatchers, made some three years later, this 1953 SF tale is built round the attempts of unseen (and hence invisible) aliens to brainwash the human race. Jimmy Hunt plays the little boy who can't get anyone to believe him; directed was William Cameron Menzies.
- 6.20 THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OF CRICKET. Richie Benaud with highlights from Sydney of the play-off for third and fourth place, with the losing semi-finalists taking each other on over 50 overs.
- 7.20 NEWS: sport; weather.
- 7.40 FRANCE ACTUELLE. 4 The Wine Crisis. Another showing for last Sunday's programme, looking at the problems facing the grape-growers of the Languedoc.
- 8.5 MAJOR DUNDEE. Charlton Heston is the cavalry officer leading a revenge mission against murderous Apaches with the unreliable assistance of Confederate POWs captured by Richard Harris in Sam Peckinpah's gutsy classic Western, made in 1965.
- 10.5 BLOTT ON THE LANDSCAPE. Repeat showing for last Wednesday's penultimate episode in the love-or-loathe-it Tom Sharpe dramatisation, with George Cole, Geraldine James, David Suchet, Simon Cadell. CeeFax sub-titles.
- 11.0 INTERNATIONAL PRO-CELEBRITY GOLF. Another nine-hole challenge from Turnberry, with Ian St John Partnering Johnny Miller, Jimmy Tarbuck mucking in with Nick Faldo.
- 11.50 RUGBY SPECIAL: Coventry v Leicester. Nigel Starmer-Smith with the best of the action from today's quarter-final match in the John Player Special Cup, and a look ahead to next week's internationals. 12.45 Close.

South-east: 6.0-6.10 pm Scottish Labour Party Conference.

Anglia

- 5.35 As London.
7.50 The Price Is Right.
8.50 T.J. Hooker.
9.45 As London.
11.50 Live from London.
12.45 Weather; close.

Central

- 6.15 As London.
11.15 As London.
11.50 As London.
12.20 As London.
12.50 As London.

Granada

- 6.15 As London.
11.15 As London.
11.50 As London.
12.20 As London.
12.50 As London.

ITV London

- 6.15 am Good Morning Britain. 8.30 The Wake-Awake Club. 9.25 World Figure Skating Championships. 10.30 No. 7. 11.45 Happy Days.
- 12.15 WORLD OF SPORT. Including: World Figure Skating Championships from Tokyo (12.20); World Cup skiing from Colorado and Alberta (12.30); news (12.45); On the Ball (12.50); racing from Ayr and Sandown (1.20); international hockey - England v Scotland, live from Wembley (2.0); half-time soccer (3.45); international boxing European Heavyweight Championship between Stefan Tangstad (Norway) and Anders Eklund (Sweden) live from Copenhagen (4.0); results (4.45).
- 5.0 NEWS: sport; weather.
- 5.5 BLOCKBUSTERS. Bob Holmes with the teenagers' quiz.
- 5.35 ROBIN OF SHERRWOOD: The Prophecy. Harlech's bold and beautiful adventure series sets the greenwood ringing again, with damself's delight Michael Praed as the forest freedom fighter, Judi Trott as Marion, Philip Davis as bad Prince John, here paying a mysterious visit to Nottingham. Oracle sub-titles.
- 6.40 THE FAME GAME. More showbiz hopefuls get to make their brief bid for recognition.
- 7.20 ALL STAR SECRETS. Michael Parkinson peels the lies of Arthur Marshall and Julie Walters to reveal the silly things they've done in their time, not the least of which is appearing on game shows.
- 7.50 T.J. HOOKER: Hooker's Run. William Shatner as the honest cop in another imported yarn.
- 8.45 THE PRICE IS RIGHT. Lesley Crowther with the show that marks British TV's greatest come-down.
- 9.45 NEWS: sport; weather.
- 10.0 ASPEL AND COMPANY. Michael A. with guest chatters. London News Headlines.
- 10.50 AUF WIEDERSEHEN, PET. The Accused Woman trouble plagues the expert building workers as the re-run drama continues.
- 11.50 MAGNUM: Of Sound Mind. Tom Selleck as the Hawaiian eye.
- 12.45 BIZARRE. John Byner introduces more trying-to-shock comedy from the States.
- 1.15 NEW FROM LONDON: Amazon. Reggae music from the multicultural, mainly-female band.
- 2.10 NIGHT THOUGHTS with Frank Field MP. Closedown.

Wales: As West except 11.50 pm Club Rugby. 12.35 Weather; close.

HTV

- 6.15 As London.
11.45 Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons.
12.15 As London.
12.50 As London.

South

- 6.15 As London.
11.45 As London.
12.15 As London.
12.50 As London.

South-West

- 6.15 As London.
11.45 As London.
12.15 As London.
12.50 As London.

Channel 4

- 1.0 pm Everybody Here. 1.30 The Making of Britain. 2. The Church and the Love of Christ.
- 1.55 THE MIGHTY BARNUM. Wallace Beery plays the legendary showman in cheerful if factually wobbly biopic, made in 1934, with Adolphe Menjou, Virginia Bruce.
- 3.30 YOUNG AND INNOCENT. Made by Hitchcock in 1937 and reminiscent of The Thirty Nine Steps, this beguiling chase thriller stars Derrick G. Marney as the young hero trying to clear his name of murder with Nova Pilbeam's help.
- 5.5 BROOKSIDE. Omnibus edition.
6. THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS. Paul Gambaccini talks to two artists who have succeeded in striking out alone - Don Henley from the hit Seventies band the Eagles, and Alison Moyet from duo Yazoo. News summary; weather.
- 7.0 UNION WORLD. Anne Lester reports from America and Canada on an alarming side-effect of the office technology revolution - the possible link between the arrival of video display terminals to replace typewriters and an abnormally high rate of miscarriages and birth defects among women who operate them.
- 7.30 CREDO: What Are Our Rights Over the Animals? John Stapleton looks at the animal rights issue, asking whether the idea that animal suffering can be justified by gains to mankind is morally defensible.
- 8.30 AS THE YEARS PASS. AS THE YEARS PASS. The Polish TV drama reaches 1914 and the last episode, with Poland preparing for the outbreak of war and the two sisters and their families preparing to part.
- 10.0 HILL STREET BLUES: Washington. Deceased. More hassles for the hard-pressed Blues.
- 11.0 JANIS. The series on larger-than-life music business characters concludes with a repeat showing of a film put together in 1975 from rare concert footage and interviews, which traces the career of rock-and-roll legend Janis Joplin. 12.45 Close.
- 8.40-1.55 pm A Question of Economics. 2.5 A Week in Politics. 3.10 Repercussions. 4.15 Film: Confessions of a Nazi Spy (1939). With Edward G. Robinson, Paul Lukas, George Sanders. 6.5 Where in the World? 6.30 The Avengers. 7.30 Newyddion. 7.45 Sion a Stan. 8.15 Wedi Wyrha. 8.45 Pedwar ar Bedwar. 9.15 Y Maes Chwara. 10.5 Unhatched 8.10. 10.15 Supertrampers. 11.15 Chords of Fame. 12.55 Closedown.

Wales: As West except 11.50 pm Club Rugby. 12.35 Weather; close.

HTV

- 6.15 As London.
11.45 Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons.
12.15 As London.
12.50 As London.

South

- 6.15 As London.
11.45 As London.
12.15 As London.
12.50 As London.

South-West

- 6.15 As London.
11.45 As London.
12.15 As London.
12.50 As London.

Radio 1

- 6.0 am Mark Page. 8.0 Peter Powell. 10.0 Dave Lee Travis. 10.30 Punk to Present. 11.0 Paul McCartney. 11.30 Saturday Live. 6.30 In Concert: Yes. Let's and Go West. 7.30 Phil Kennedy. 8.30-12.00 Dixie Peach.
- Radio 2
- 4.0 am Arthur Murphy. 6.0 George Fergusson. 8.0 David Jacobs. 10.0 Sounds of the Sixties. 11.0 Album Time. 1.0 am The Impressionists. 1.30 Sport on 2. 2.0 Folk on 2. 7.0 Beat the Record. 7.30 Start of Friday Night is Music Night. 8.30 Big Band Special. 10.0 Steve Jones. 12.5 am Night Owl. 1.0 Peter Dickinson. 2.0-4.0 Wally Whiston.
- Radio 3
- 6.55 Weather; News; Anthems. 7.0 News; Record Review; Mahler's Fourth; Stravinsky's Rite of Spring; chamber music. 7.30 Progress Release. 8.00 News. 8.30 Sonatas Op. 30 No. 3 (F. Schop). 9.00 Holman. 9.30 Richard Burnett. 10.00 Schubert: Trout Quintet. 10.30 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 11.00 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 11.30 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 12.00 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 12.30 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 1.00 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 1.30 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 2.00 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 2.30 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 3.00 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 3.30 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 4.00 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 4.30 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 5.00 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 5.30 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 6.00 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 6.30 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 7.00 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 7.30 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 8.00 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 8.30 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 9.00 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 9.30 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 10.00 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 10.30 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 11.00 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 11.30 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 12.00 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 12.30 Schumann: Piano Concerto. 1.00 Schumann: 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BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

BENJAMIN CHARLES NEWTON — 100th birthday. Love, Mum, Dad, Sister, Brother, Nephew, Grandchildren.

ENGAGEMENTS

THE ENGAGEMENT is announced between **Mr. John R. Smith** and **Ms. Catherine J. Jones**. The ceremony will take place at St. Paul's Church, London, on Saturday, March 16, 1985, at 11.00 am.

DEATHS

TWIGG (ANNIE) — On March 6, 1985, at her home, 12, The Green, London, aged 85. She was the wife of the late Mr. John Twigg. Burial at St. Paul's Church, London, on Saturday, March 16, 1985, at 11.00 am.

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LECTURES & MEETINGS

SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL THERAPY

2nd Scientific Conference on DISEASE AND THE ENVIRONMENT March 26 and 27, 1985 at Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1. Topics include: Diseases caused by light, electromagnetic and childhood leukaemia; Environmental factors in childhood leukaemia; Indoor air pollution and food; Diseases caused by noise; Diseases caused by vibration; Diseases caused by electromagnetic fields; Diseases caused by chemical pollutants; Diseases caused by biological pollutants; Diseases caused by physical pollutants; Diseases caused by social pollutants; Diseases caused by psychological pollutants; Diseases caused by spiritual pollutants; Diseases caused by supernatural pollutants; Diseases caused by extraterrestrial pollutants; Diseases caused by intergalactic pollutants; Diseases caused by cosmic pollutants; Diseases caused by universal pollutants; Diseases caused by everything.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANCER HIT BACK

Who's leading the fight against cancer, but we'll need your help. Please send your donation today to Room 411, PO Box 223, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX. **IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND**.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION — In the matter of the estate of **John R. Smith**, deceased. The executor, **Ms. Catherine J. Jones**, hereby gives notice that she has applied to the Probate Registry for a grant of probate in respect of the estate of the deceased.

WANTED

WANTED — A person who can help me with my business. Tel: 01-583 72255.

ART GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS — Exhibition of **John R. Smith** paintings. March 10 to 20, 1985. Tickets: £5.00.

FAIRS & AUCTIONS

ANTHONY HARRISON — Auctioneer. Tel: 01-583 72255.

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STEVE BELL

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